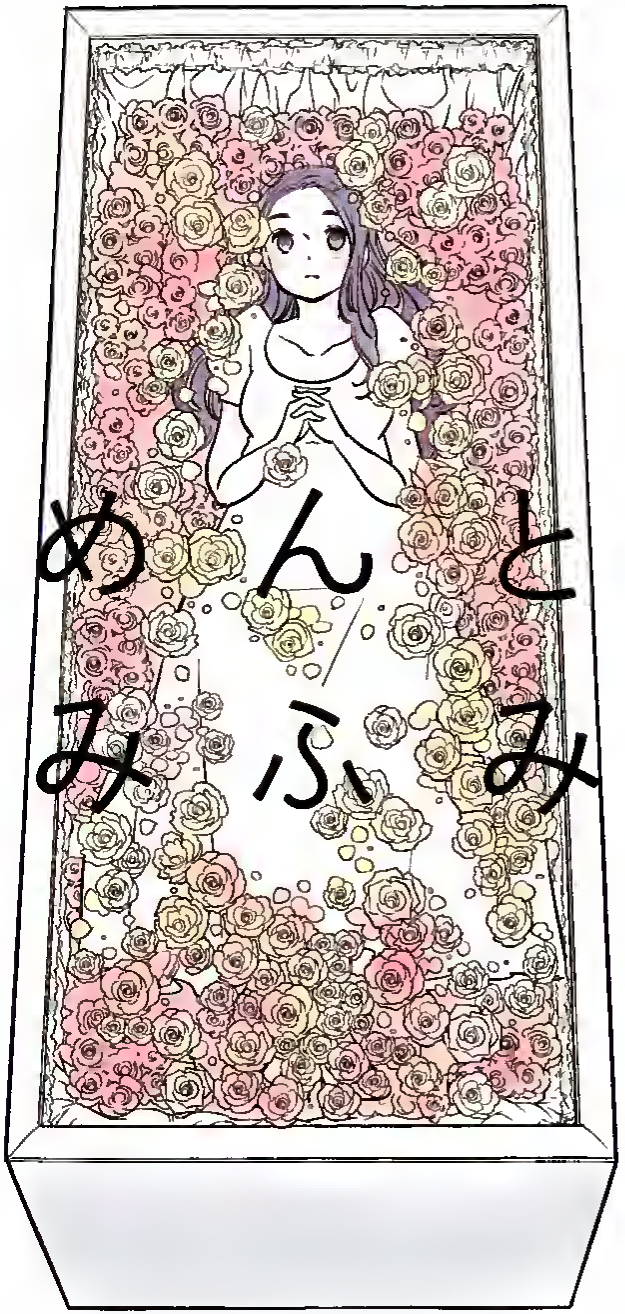
memento mori

fumifumiko

めめんと森



めんと森

ふみふみこ

shodensha

memento
mori

fumi
fumiko

ふ-4-1
593
祥伝社

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葬儀社で式典補佐のバイトを
始めたばかりの“めめ”こと目野優子（めのゆうこ）。
葬儀中に居眠りしたり
怒られてばかりの毎日だが
教育係の黒川（くろかわ）に「殺すぞ」とすごまれると
どうにもときめいてしまって…。

兄との消えない思い出、つまんないセックス、
どうでもいい明日。
モヤモヤを抱えぼんやり生きてきためめが
仕事で死に触れ、人を好きになって生を知る
世にもいかがわしい純愛物語。

memento mori fumifumiko

めめんと森

memento mori fumi

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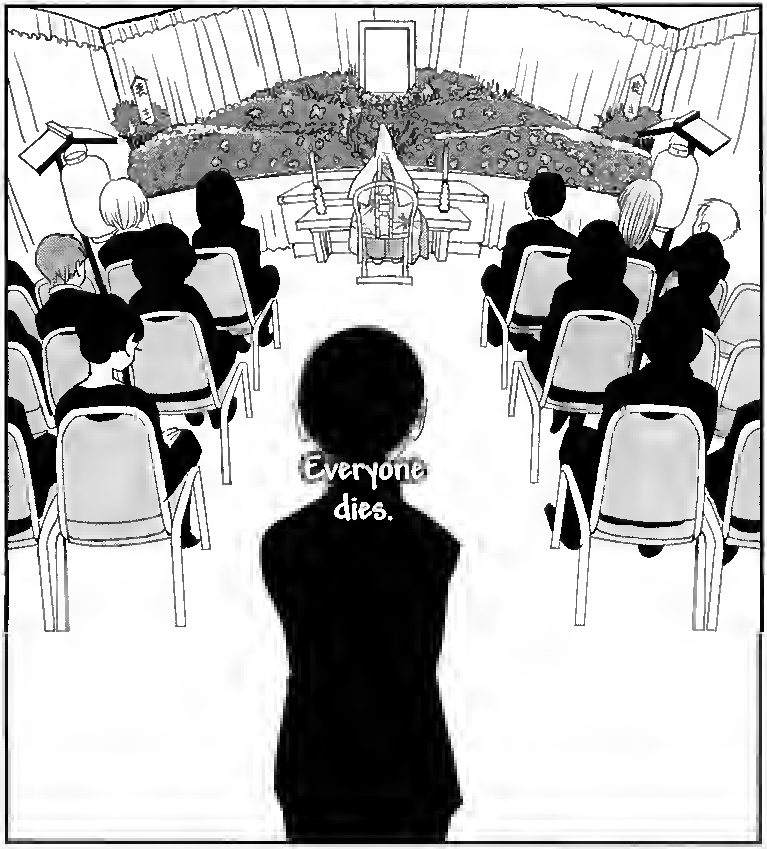
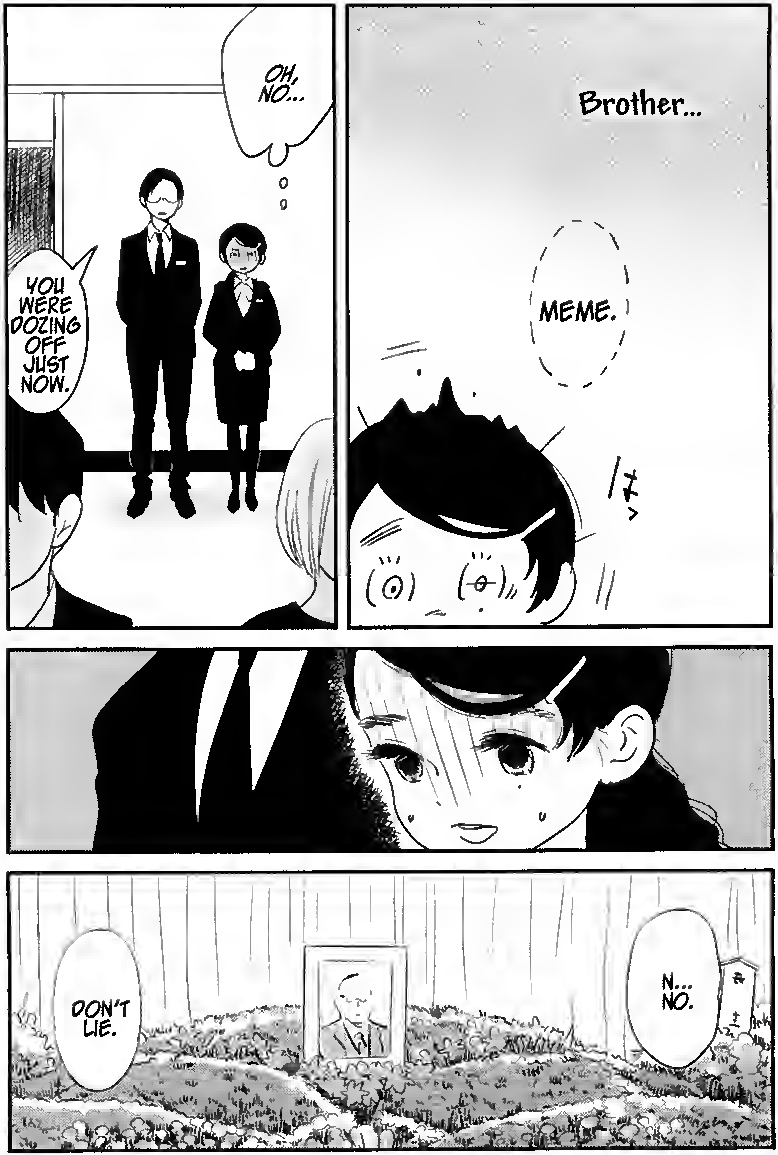
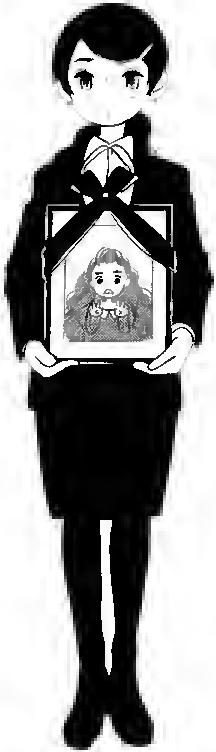

Everyone
dies.

ガク
story. 1


OH, NO...
YOU WERE DOZING OFF JUST NOW.
Brother...
MEME.
DON'T LIE.
N... NO.

S...
DO YOU WANNA DIE?
SORRY.

memento mori



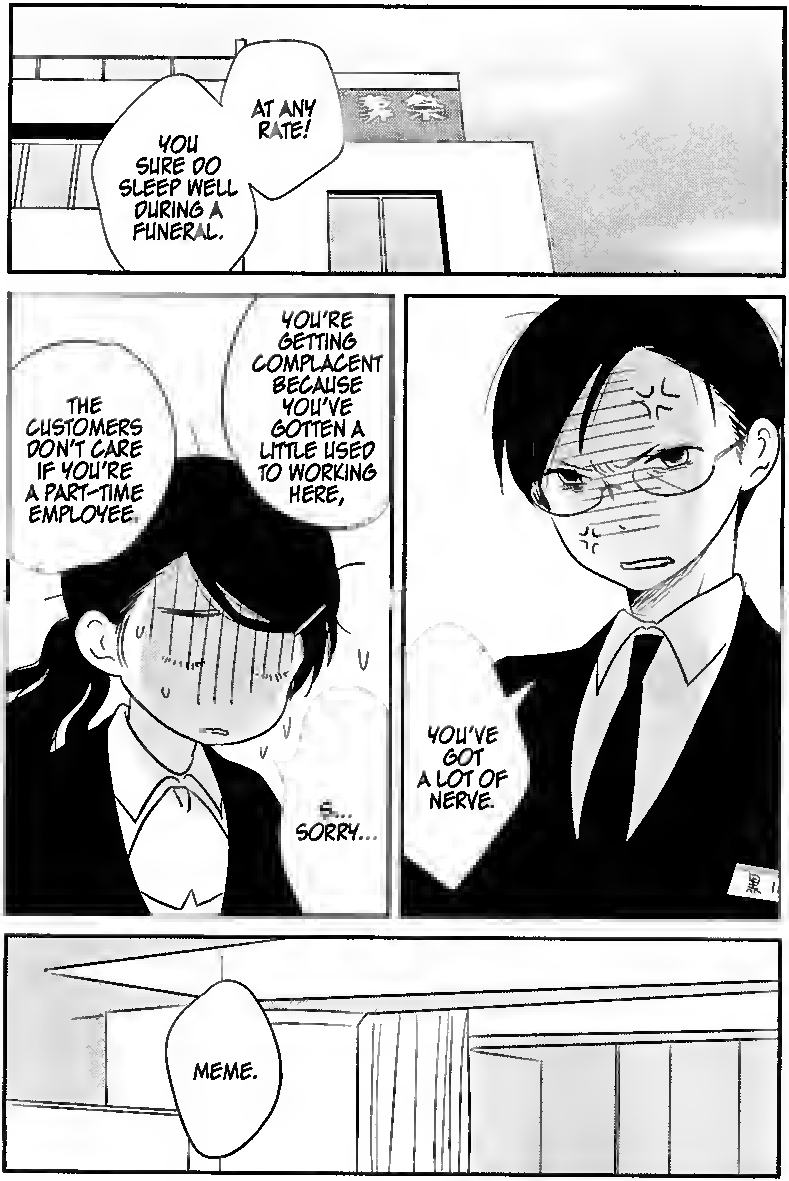
story. 1

IT'S BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE I STATED WORKING PART-TIME AT A FUNERAL SERVICE AGENCY.
YOUR NAME IS MENO, RIGHT?
LOOK THERE.
AH, YEAH...
I'M MENO.

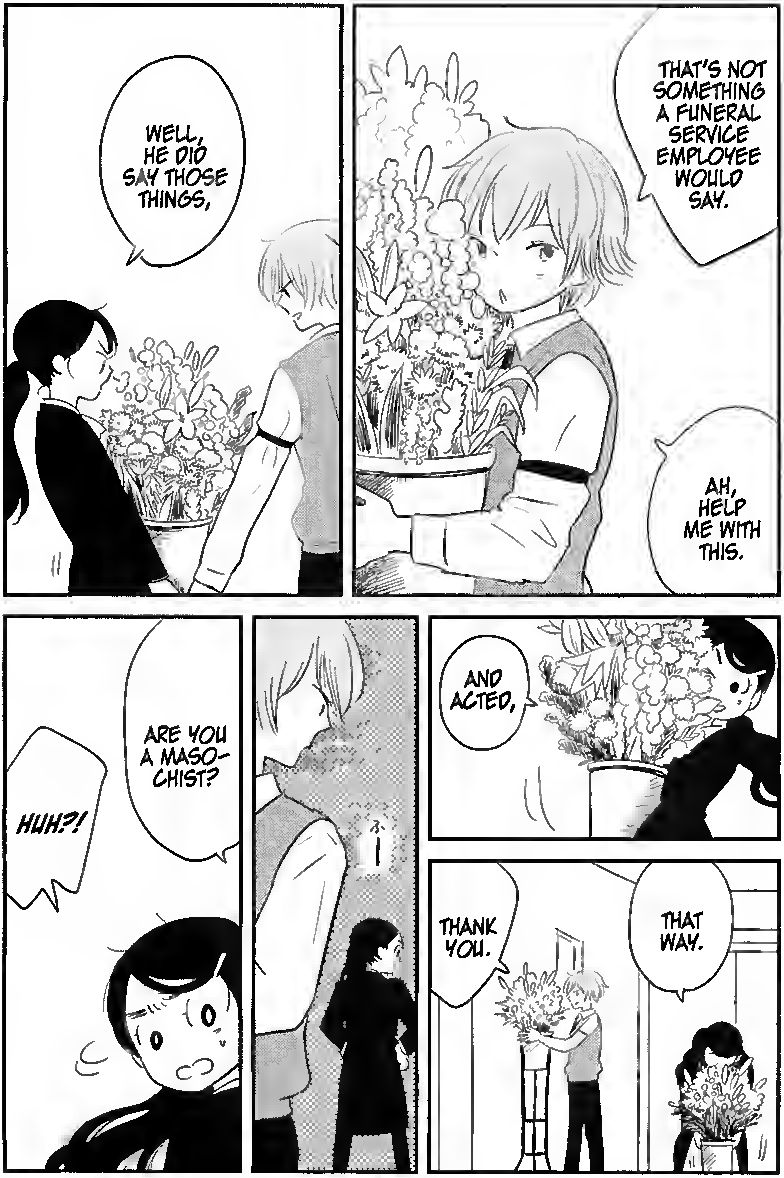
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO AT LEAST WRITE YOUR OWN NAME.
は
は
は
は
OH, THIS IS RARE.
MEME
IT SAYS 'MEME'.
ふ
I'LL CHANGE IT!
OH, NICE TIMING.
IT'S ODD SEEING MR. KUROKAWA LAUGHING LIKE THIS.

MRS. UENO...
I DON'T THINK I CAN...
MR. KURO-KAWA,
PLEASE LOOK AFTER MS.MENO.
HA...
!!!
DO I NEED TO REMIND YOU THAT I COULD BE THE NEXT CEO?
LETS GO, MEME.
UH...
EH, MY NAME IS... Meno.
OKAY!

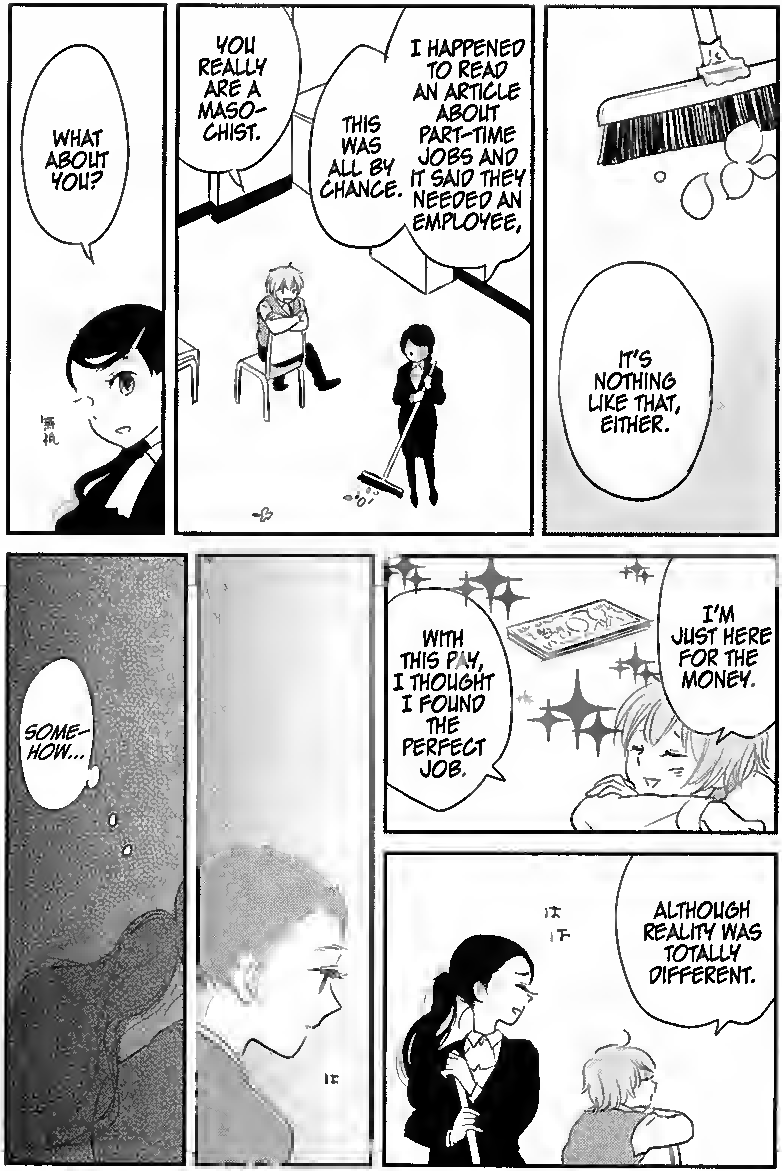
ALWAYS GIVE YOUR CONDOLENCES WHEN OPENING THE COFFIN.
Every day...
AND GIVE YOUR FULL ATTENTION TO THE GUESTS.
DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE WITH YOUR HEELS.
I'm surprised.
NOW, IT'S TIME TO GET READY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MEME?!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
Every day, I get scolded...
And feel like I can't take it anymore.

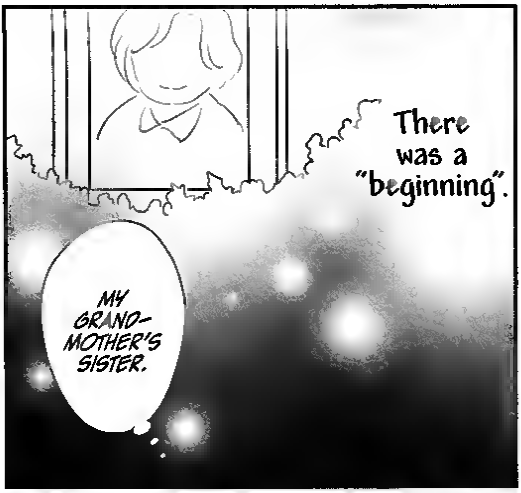

AT ANY RATE!
YOU SURE DO SLEEP WELL DURING A FUNERAL.
YOU'RE GETTING COMPLACENT BECAUSE YOU'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE USED TO WORKING HERE,
THE CUSTOMERS DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE.
S... SORRY...
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE.
MEME.

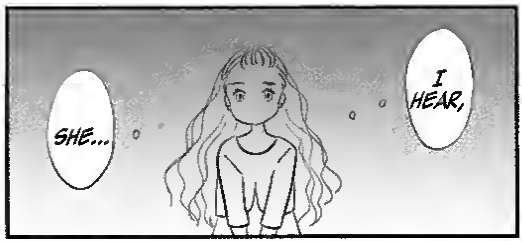
WHAT A SAVAGE FACE.
A SKY FUNERAL OR WIND FUNERAL?
THE NEXT TIME YOU MESS UP, IT WILL BE YOUR FUNERAL.
MR. KURO-KAWA IS REALLY SCARY.
WHY ARE THERE ONLY 2 CHOICES?
DECIDE WHICH ONE WE'RE DOING.

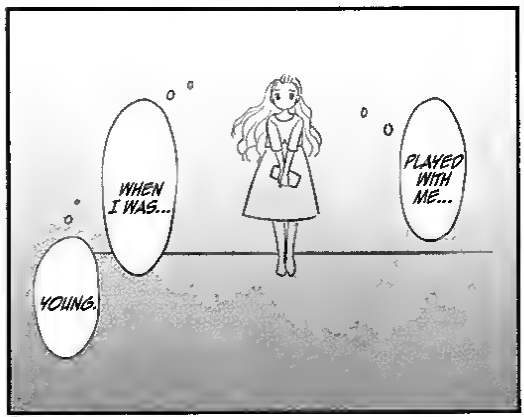

WELL, HE DID SAY THOSE THINGS,
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING A FUNERAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE WOULD SAY.
AH, HELP ME WITH THIS.
AND ACTED,
ARE YOU A MASO-CHIST?
HUH?!
ふー
THANK YOU.
THAT WAY.

TO WORK WITH MR. KUROKAWA FOR MORE THAN A MONTH.
I HEAR YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I was only helping...
AH, THEN YOU REALLY WANTED TO WORK AT A FUNERAL SERVICE AGENCY.
I'M THE TYPE THAT WORKS BETTER WHEN PRAISED!
IF IT WERE ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED THIS LONG,
I JUST MAKE SOME MISTAKES.
SO I WAS WONDERING IF YOU LIKED BEING SCOLDED.

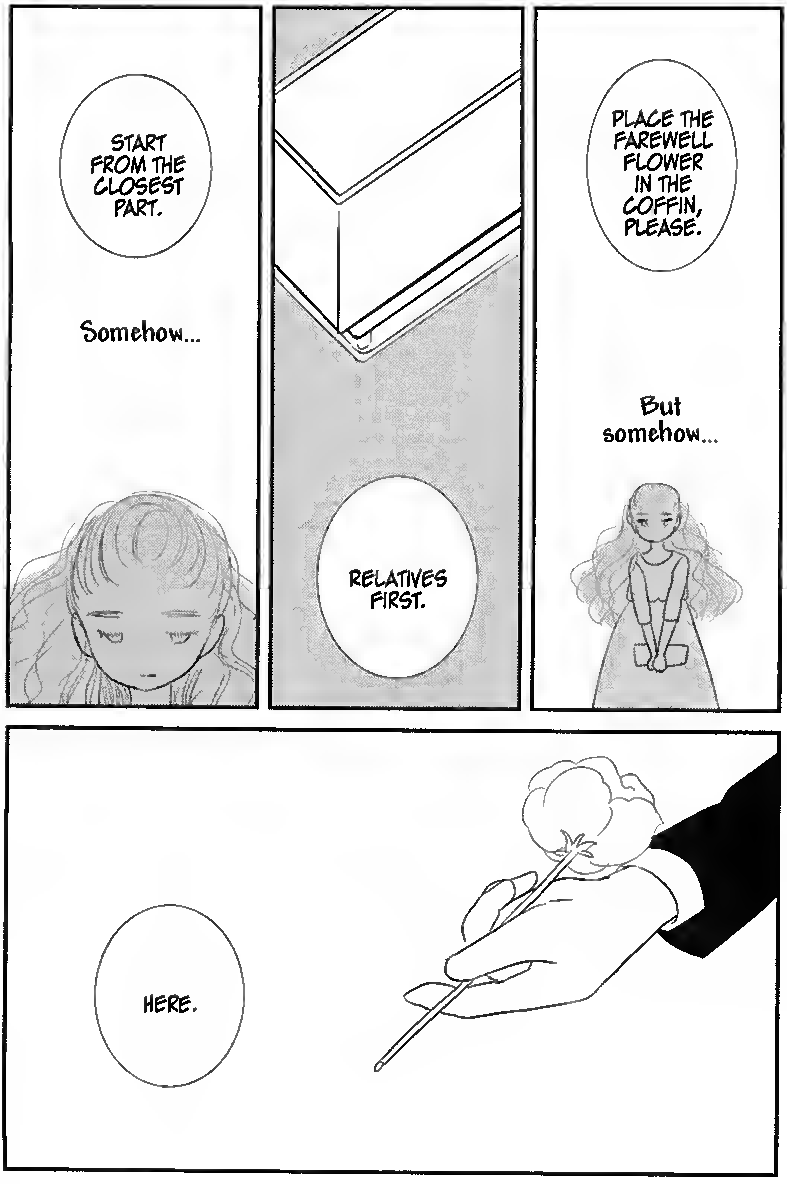

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YOU REALLY ARE A MASO-CHIST.
THIS WAS ALL BY CHANCE.
I HAPPENED TO READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT PART-TIME JOBS AND IT SAID THEY NEEDED AN EMPLOYEE,
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT, EITHER.
I'M JUST HERE FOR THE MONEY.
WITH THIS PAY, I THOUGHT I FOUND THE PERFECT JOB.
SOME-HOW...
ALTHOUGH REALITY WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

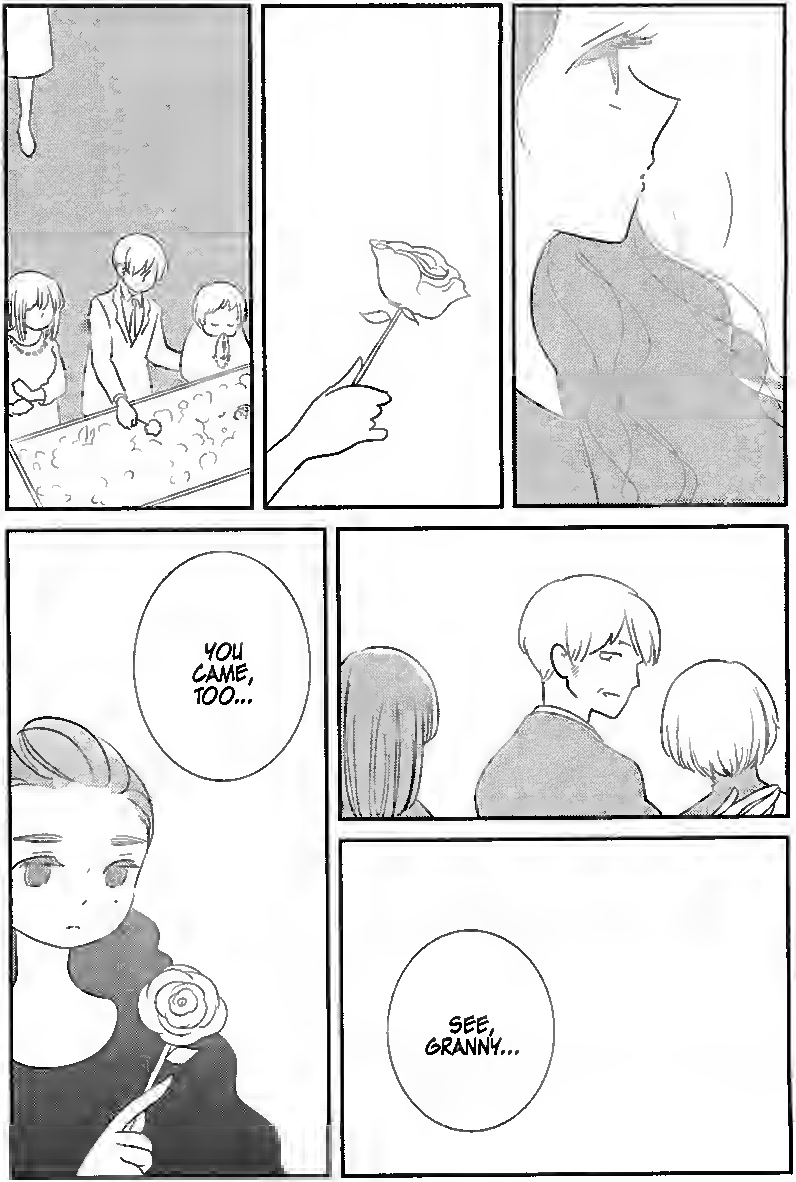

There was a "beginning".
MY GRAND-MOTHER'S SISTER.

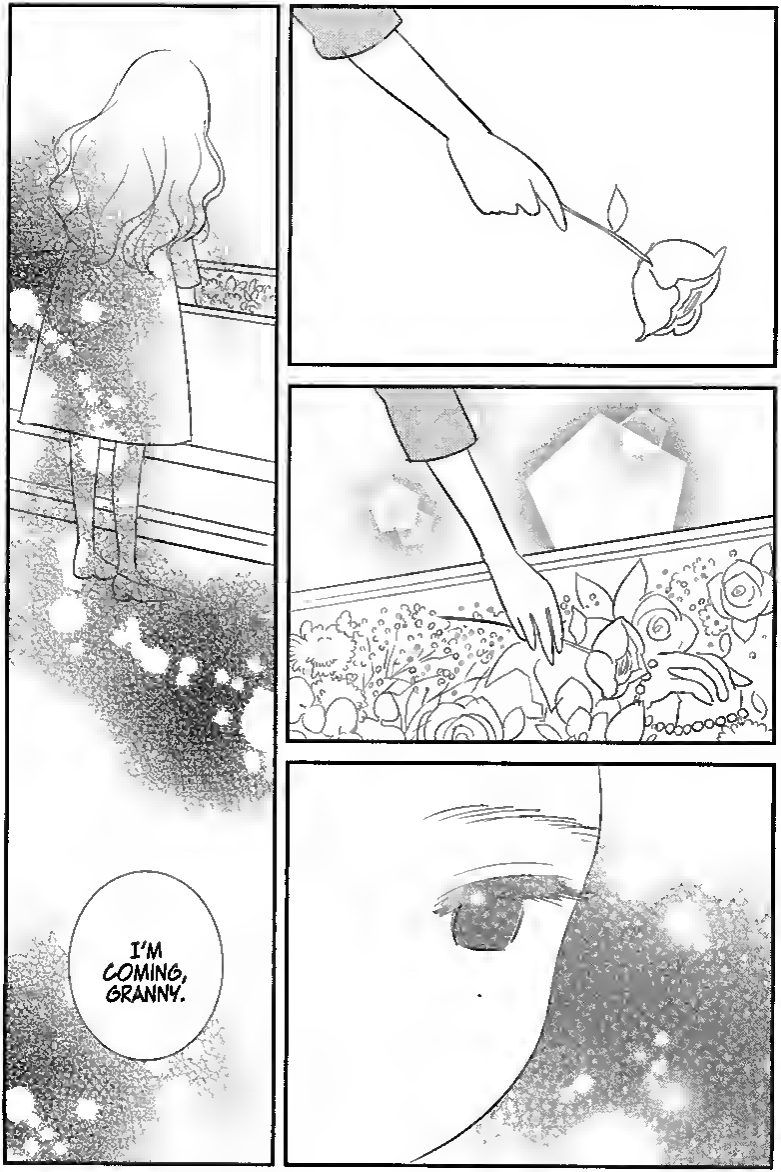

SHE...
I HEAR,


WHEN I WAS...
YOUNG.
PLAYED WITH ME...

It seems...
To me...
IT WAS JUST LIKE THAT...

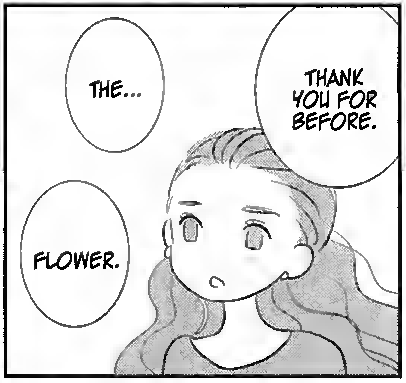

START FROM THE CLOSEST PART.
Somehow...
RELATIVES FIRST.
PLACE THE FAREWELL FLOWER IN THE COFFIN, PLEASE.
But somehow...
HERE.


YOU CAME, TOO...
SEE, GRANNY...


I'M COMING, GRANNY.

I'M JUST HAPPY TO SEE YOU GIVE HER THE FLOWER.

U... UM...

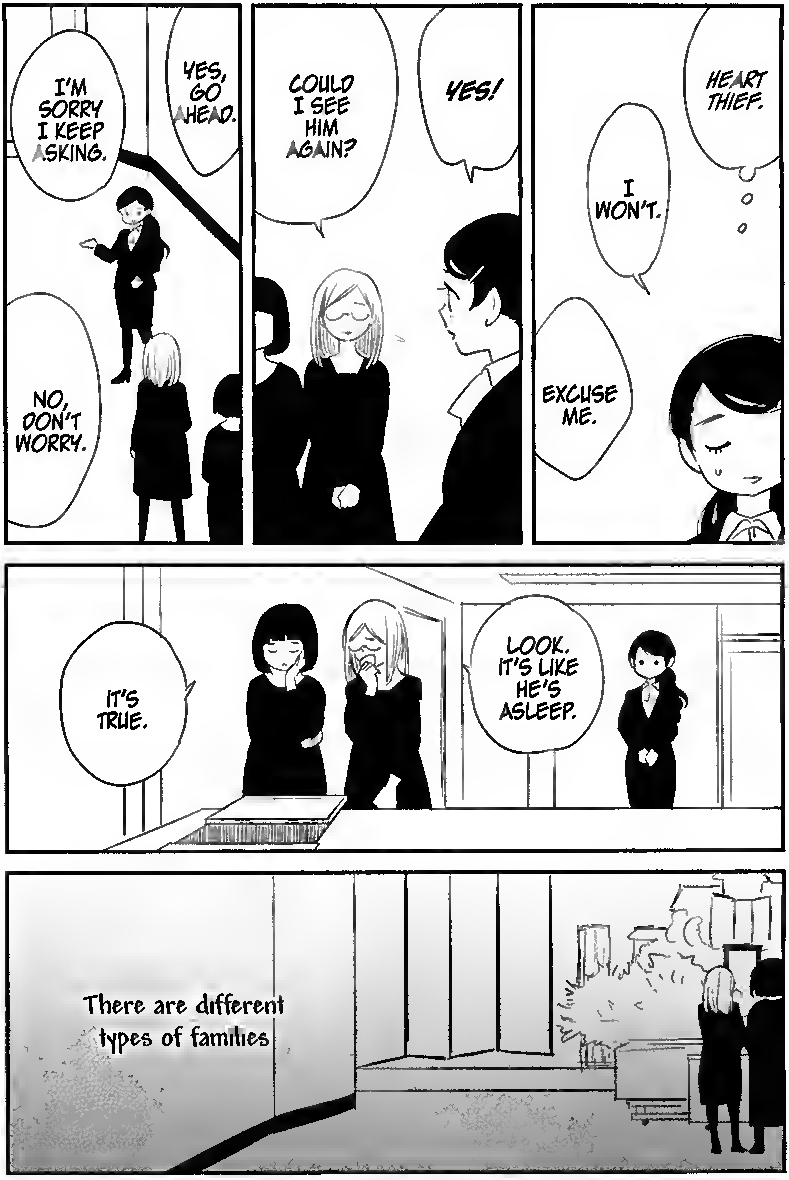

THE...
THANK YOU FOR BEFORE.
FLOWER.

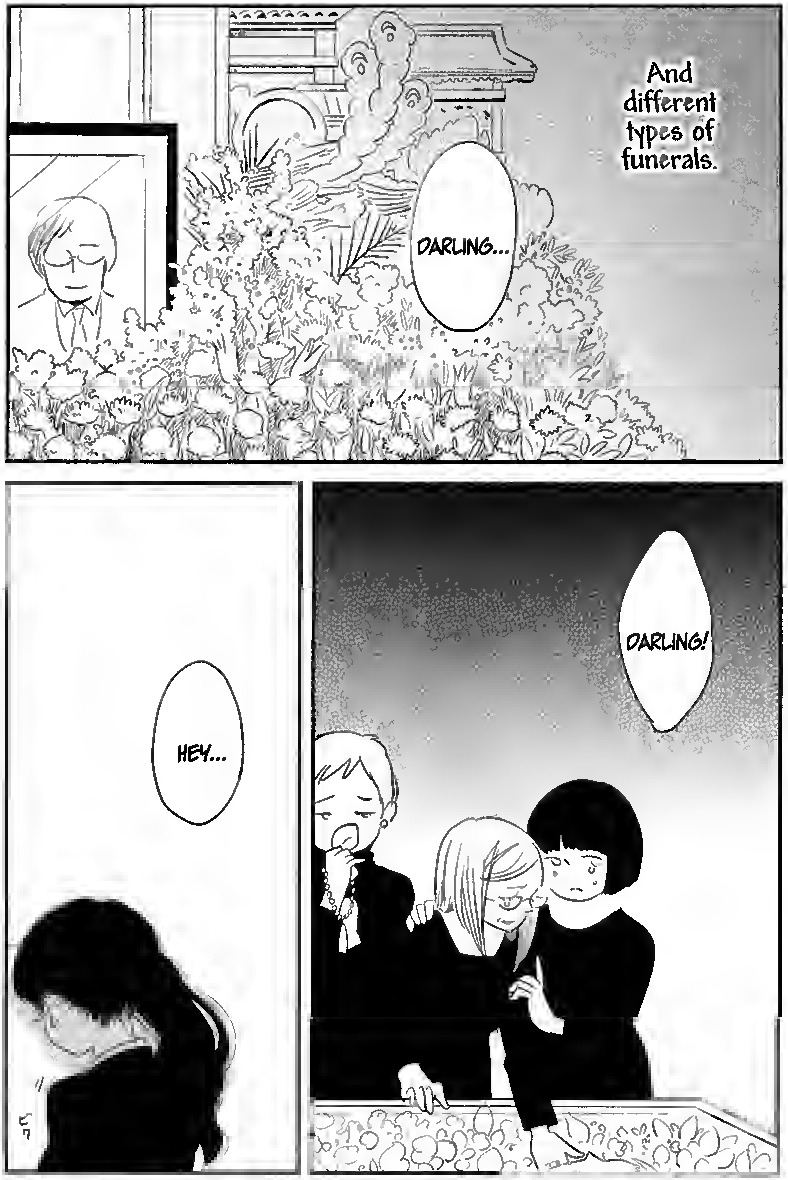
SOME-WAY,
SOME-HOW,
REALLY,
IT WAS AFTER THAT,
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHICH FUNERAL AGENCY HE WAS IN.
大ままま
大ままま

It's OK, it's OK.

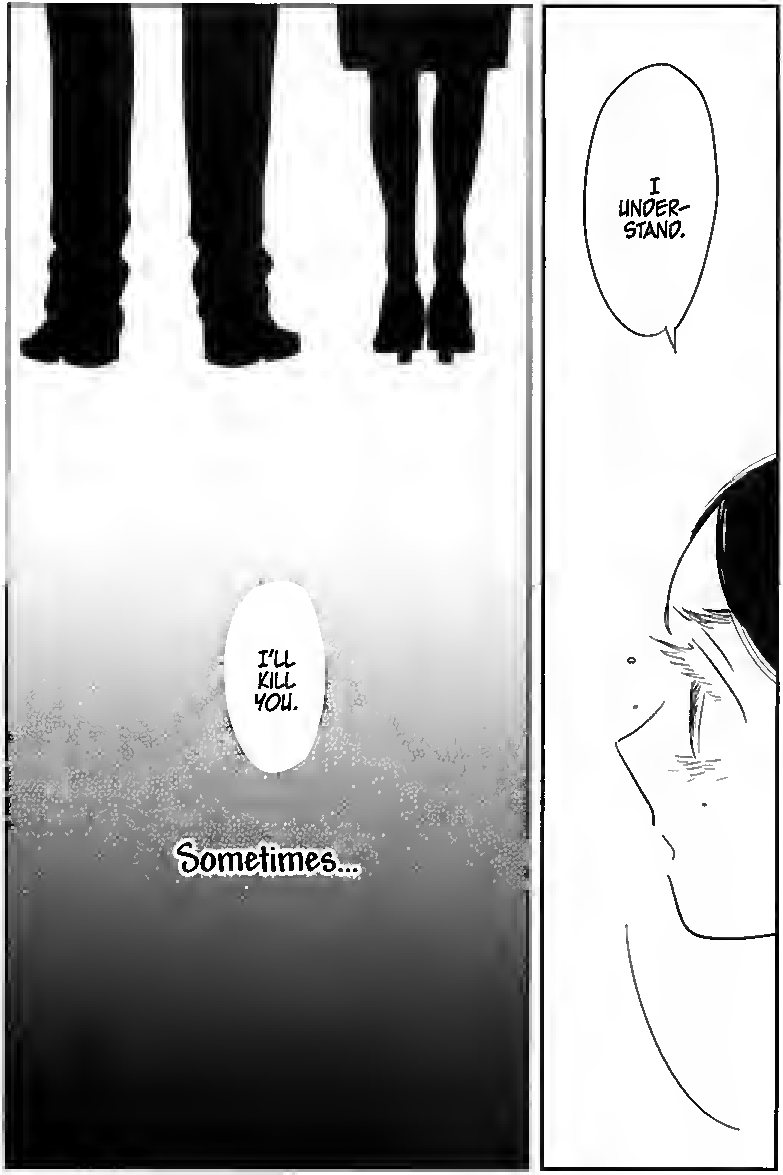
HEY, DON'T FALL ASLEEP.
Destiny?

That was the beginning.


HEART THIEF.
I WON'T.
EXCUSE ME.
YES!
COULD I SEE HIM AGAIN?
YES, GO AHEAD.
I'M SORRY I KEEP ASKING.
NO, DON'T WORRY.
LOOK. IT'S LIKE HE'S ASLEEP.
IT'S TRUE.
There are different types of families

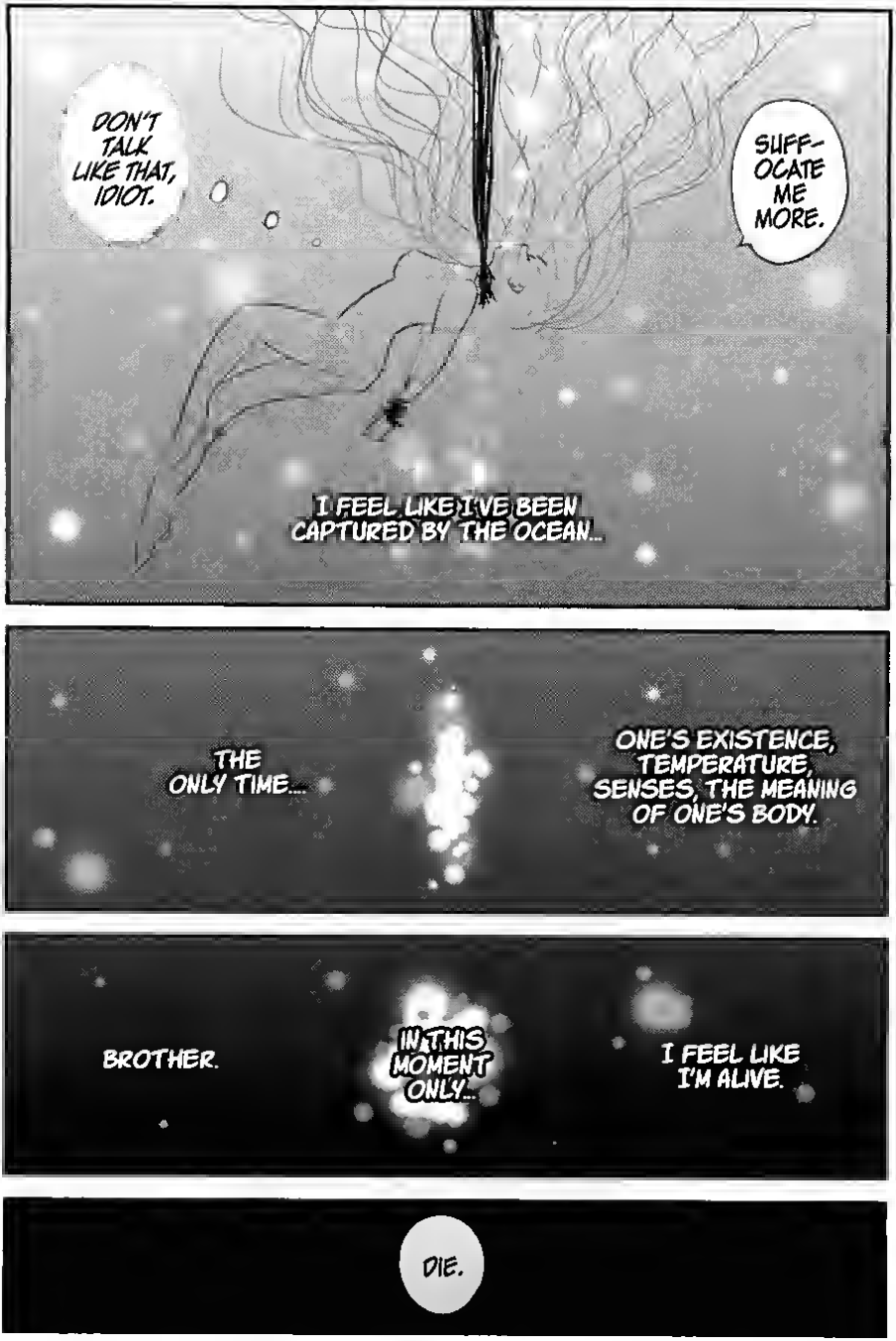

And different types of funerals.
DARLING...
HEY...
DARLING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CRYING LIKE THAT?
DON'T CRY.
IT IS THE FAMILY THAT SHOULD BE SAD.
SO... SORRY...

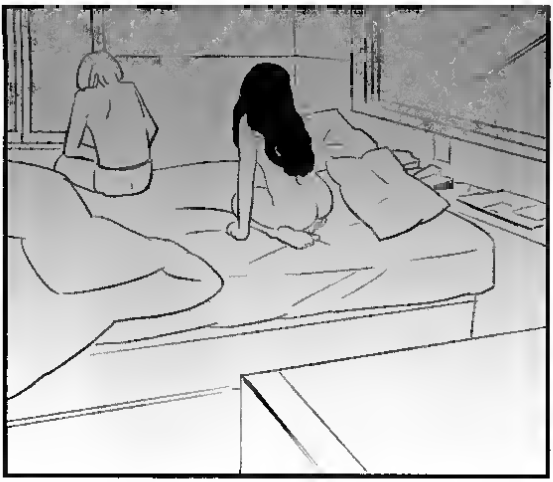

I UNDER-STAND.
I'LL KILL YOU.
Sometimes...

Even just a little bit...
I think that this is not so bad...
To die...
Brother...

I LOVE YOU, YUUKO.
AH, AH.
YUUKO.
story. 2
THE WORD "LOVE"...
I LOVE YOU.


DON'T TALK LIKE THAT, IDIOT.
SUFF-OCATE ME MORE.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE OCEAN..
THE ONLY TIME...
ONE'S EXISTENCE, TEMPERATURE, SENSES, THE MEANING OF ONE'S BODY.
BROTHER.
IN THIS MOMENT ONLY...
I FEEL LIKE I'M ALIVE.
DIE.

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
LET'S STOP THIS.
WHAT AM I TO YOU?
OK.
HEY...
WHY?
IT'S SCARY.



I COULDN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION, SO WE BROKE UP.

I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

BROTHER...

PETTY BASTARD.

NOT BEING SAD...

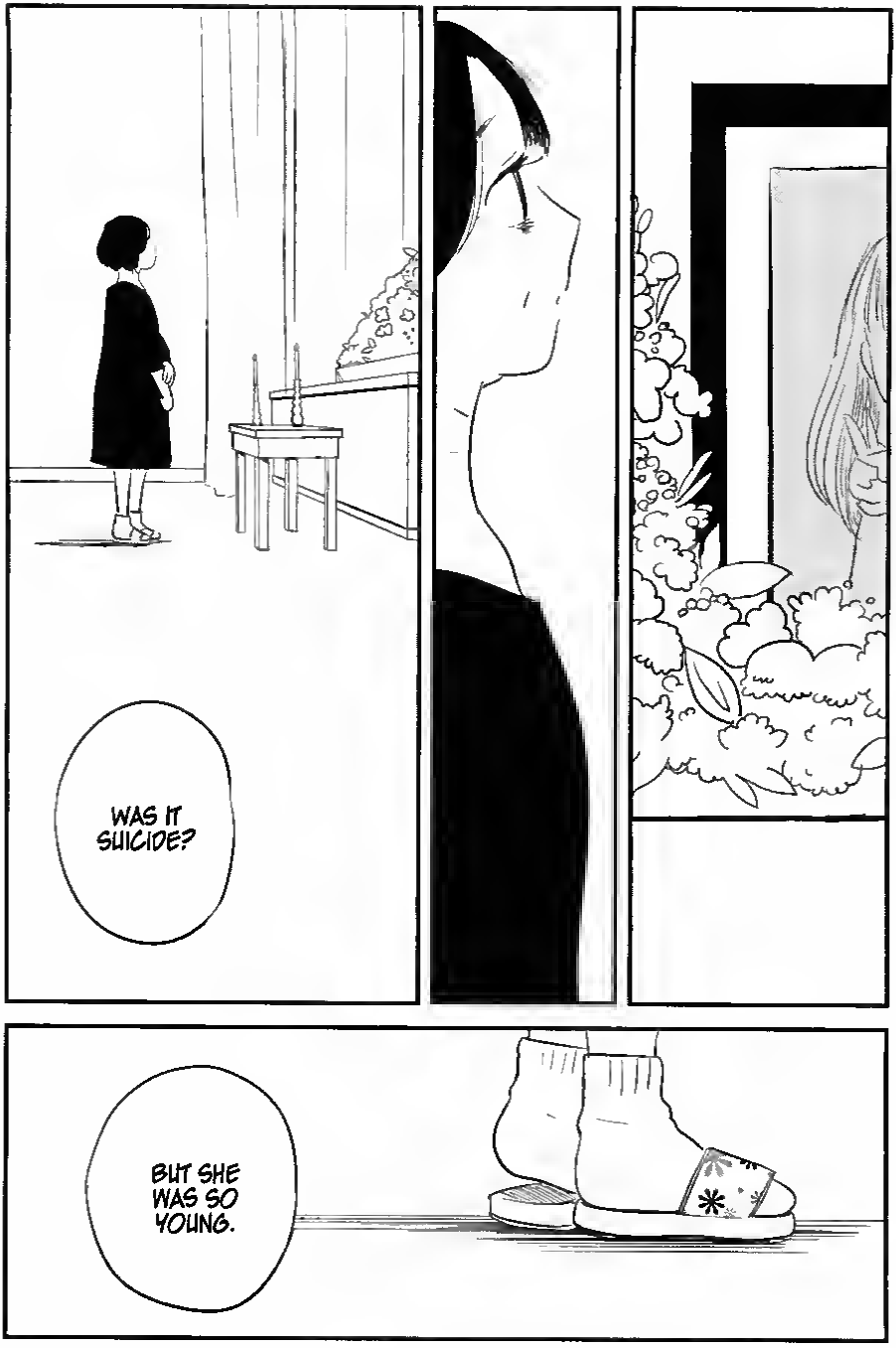
WAS SAD IN ITSELF.

I THOUGHT YOU...

I DIDN'T FEEL SAD...

story. 2

memento mori

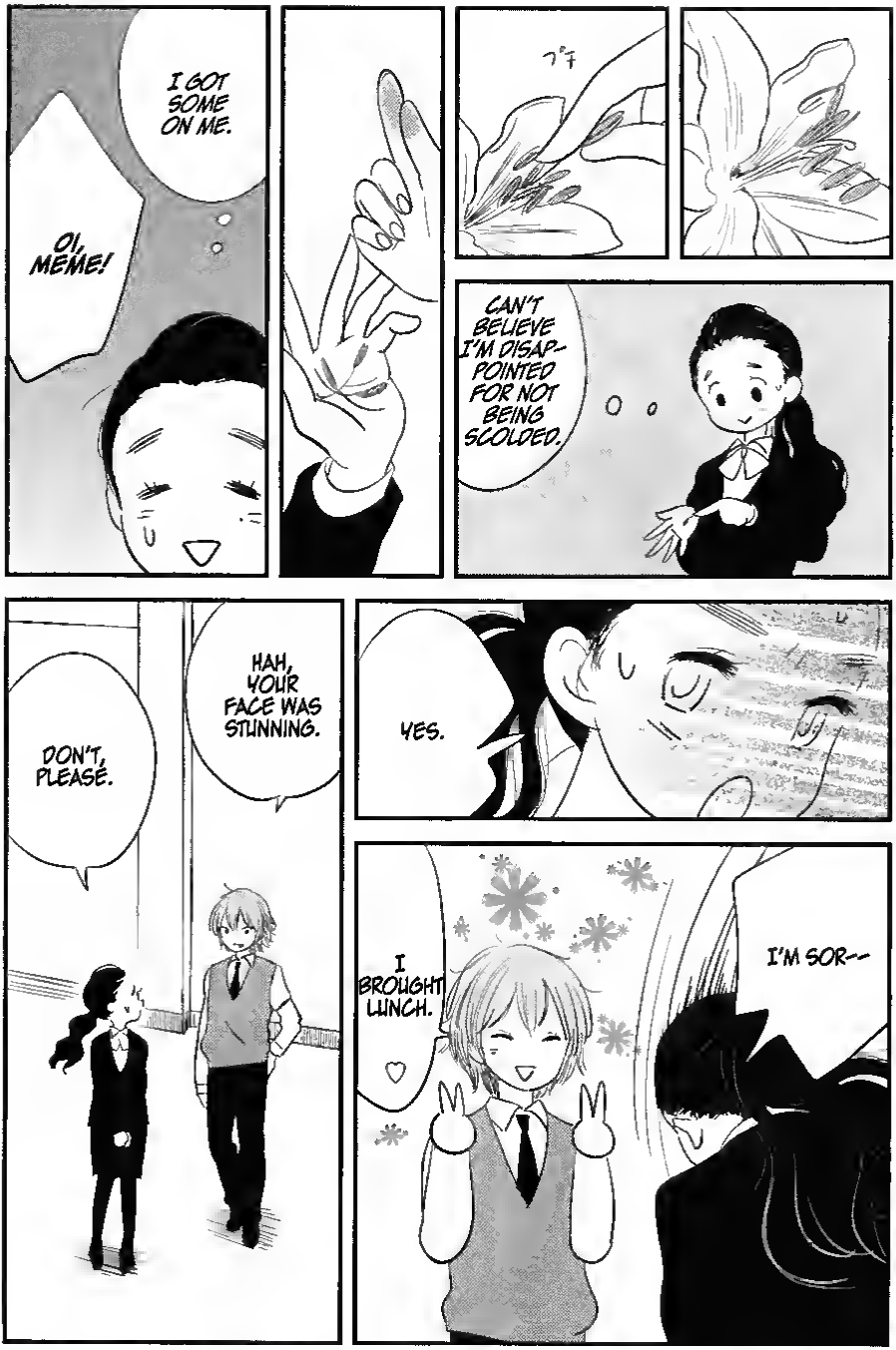

WAS IT SUICIDE?
BUT SHE WAS SO YOUNG.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
ONLY THE MOTHER CAME TODAY, SO WE WON'T BE HERE ALL NIGHT.
ALSO, TOMORROW IS A SECULAR FUNERAL.
AH, OKAY.
JUST BE THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
IS THERE ANYTHING WE SHOULD DO?
NO.

It's more nerve wrecking as there is less to prepare for secular funerals
It's so hard to sweep in Autum
AS ALWAYS...
ふ
ゴー
ふ

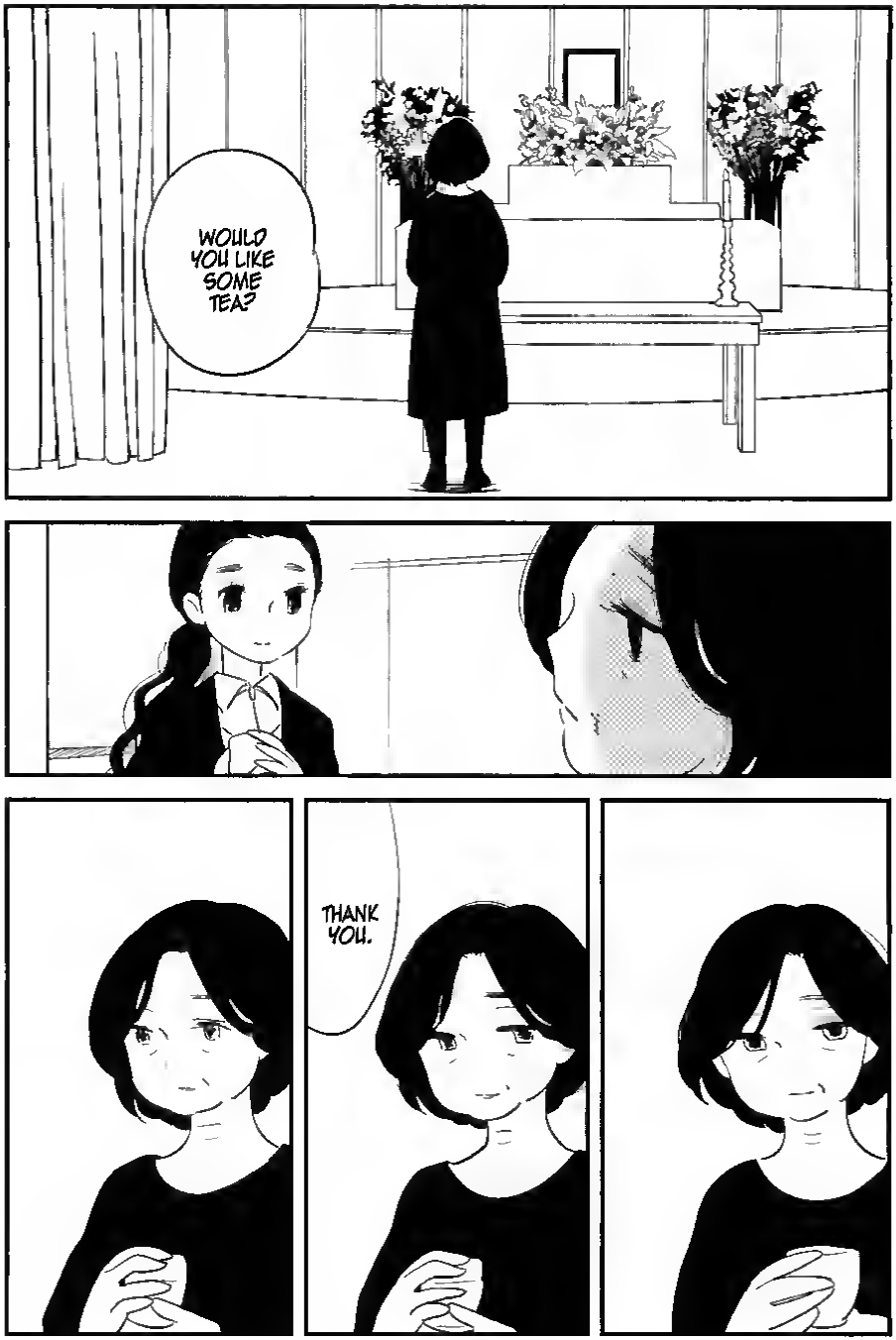
PLEASE COME TO THE WAITING ROOM.
It's this way
GUIDING THE FAMILIES.
It's pretty warm now
Yeah
LILY...
I WON'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES TODAY!
しっ
SALT, CHECK.
TEA LEAF, CHECK.
FUNERAL GUIDANCE BOOKLET, CHECK.
Ah!
GIVE ME YOUR HANDS.
This voice is...

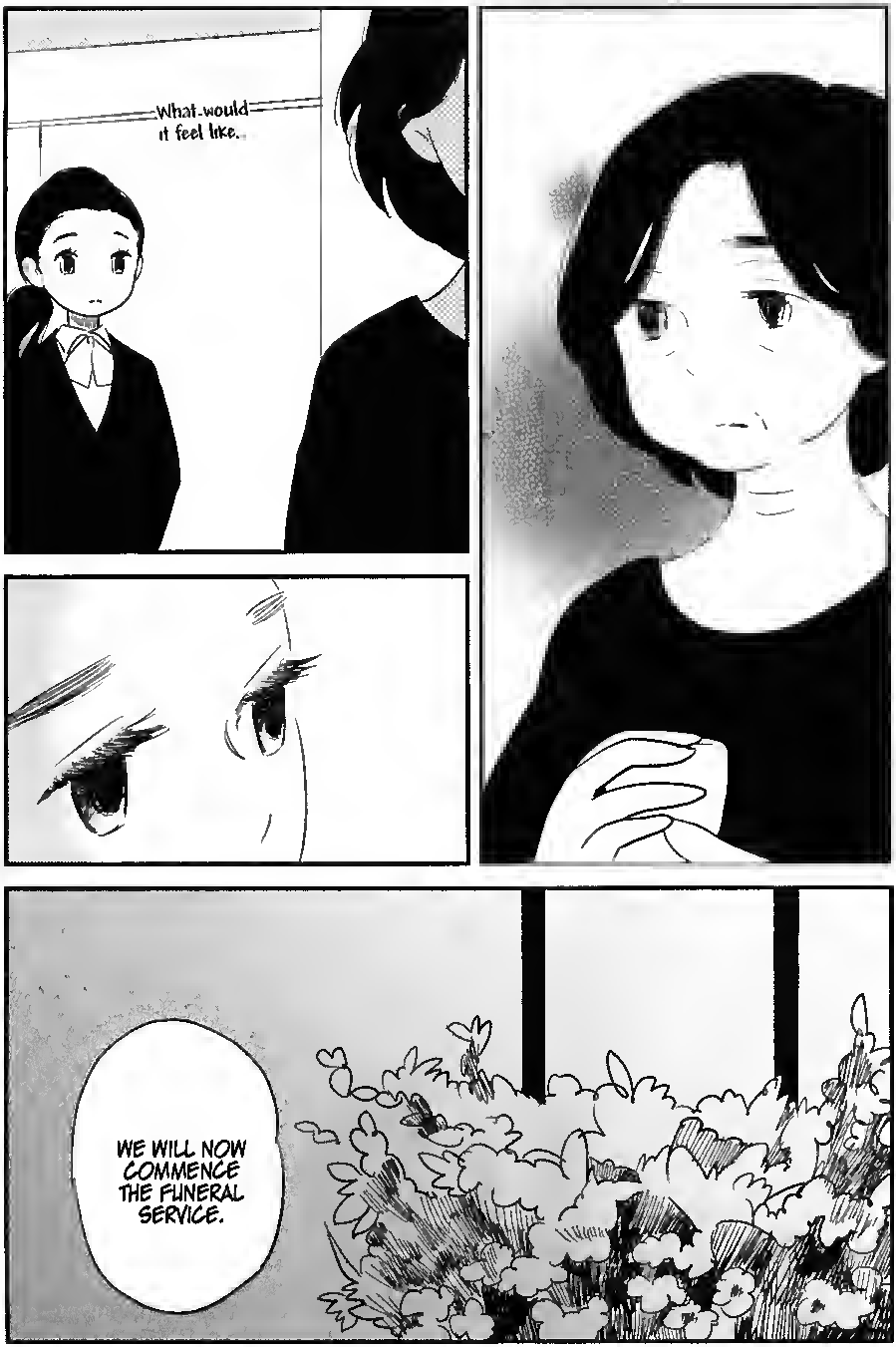
LILIES HAVE A LOT OF POLLEN.
IT'S HARD TO GET OFF, SO TAKE THEM OUT.
THAT'S IT.
IS THAT IT?
YOUR VOICE IS LOUD.
YES!
YES!

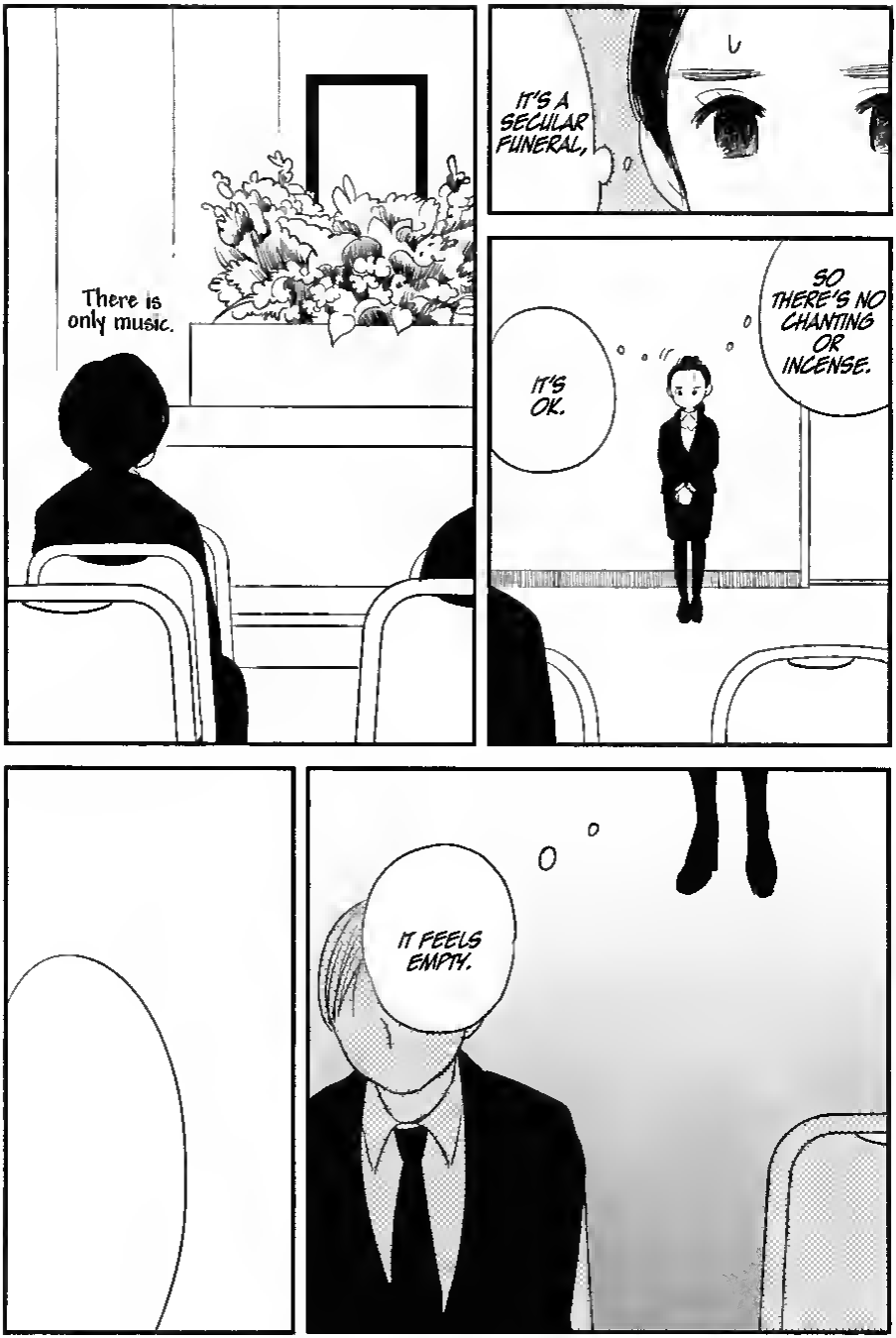

I GOT SOME ON ME.
OI, MEME!
CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DISAP-POINTED FOR NOT BEING SCOLDED.
YES.
HAH, YOUR FACE WAS STUNNING.
DON'T, PLEASE.
I BROUGHT LUNCH.
I'M SOR--

KUROKAWA-SAN SAID IT WAS HARD TO ERASE THE ROPE MARKS.
SO SHE HANGED HERSELF?
DOES KUROKAWA-SAN ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF THE DECEASED?
NOT ALWAYS.
BUT HE DOES IT WHOLE-HEARTEDLY, YOU SEE.

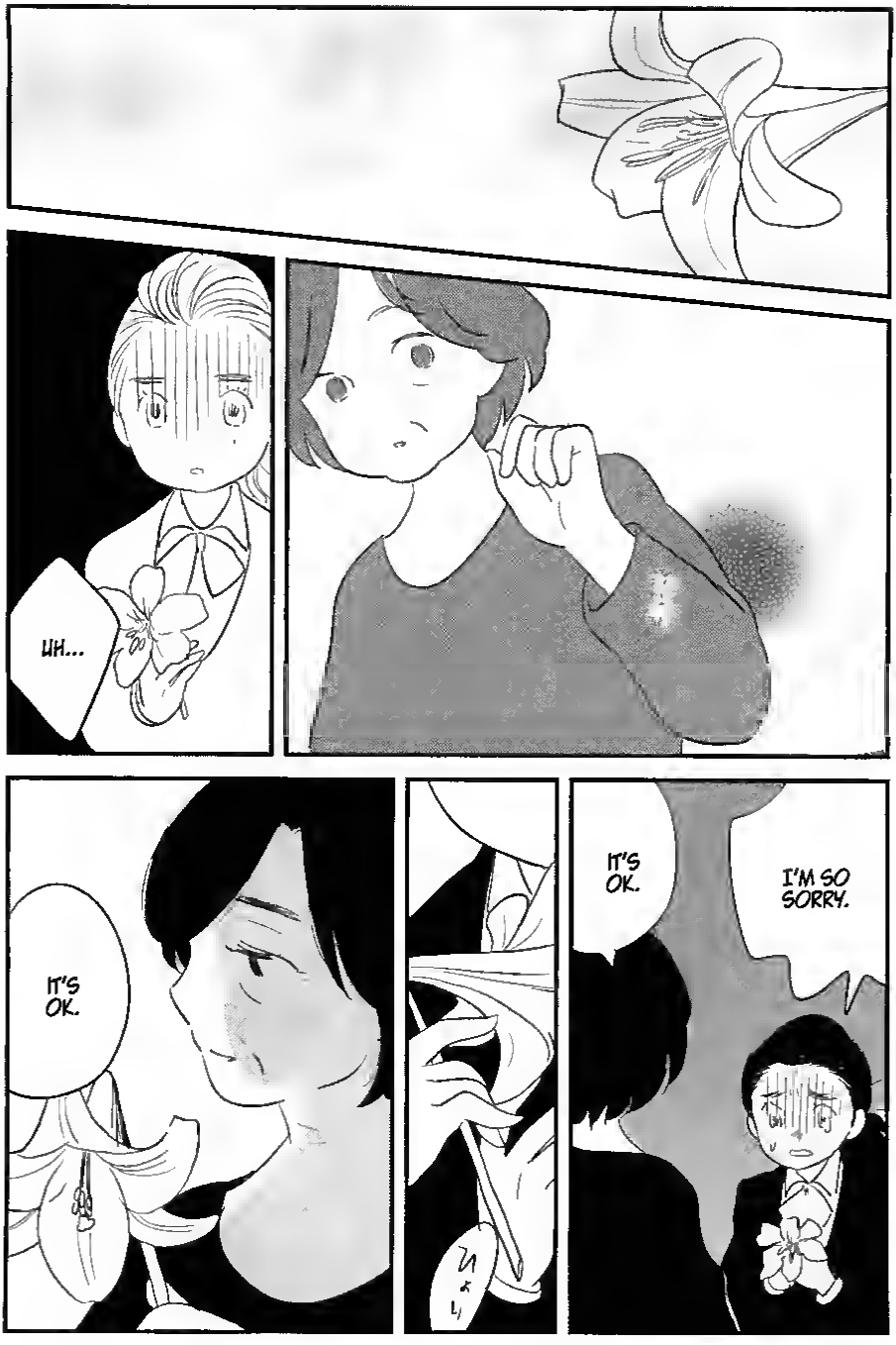
THE DECEASED WAS A WOMAN THIS TIME.
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.
YEAH, THAT'S WHY IF IT WERE ME,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT THE SAME WAY.
KUROKAWA-SAN TAKES CARE OF IT PERFECTLY.


WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
THANK YOU.


What would it feel like...
WE WILL NOW COMMENCE THE FUNERAL SERVICE.


There is only music.
IT'S A SECULAR FUNERAL,
SO THERE'S NO CHANTING OR INCENSE.
IT'S OK.
IT FEELS EMPTY.

PLEASE PLACE THE FLOWERS STARTING FROM THE CLOSEST PLACE.
HUH?
UM, THE FLOWER...


UH...
IT'S OK.
IT'S OK.
I'M SO SORRY.

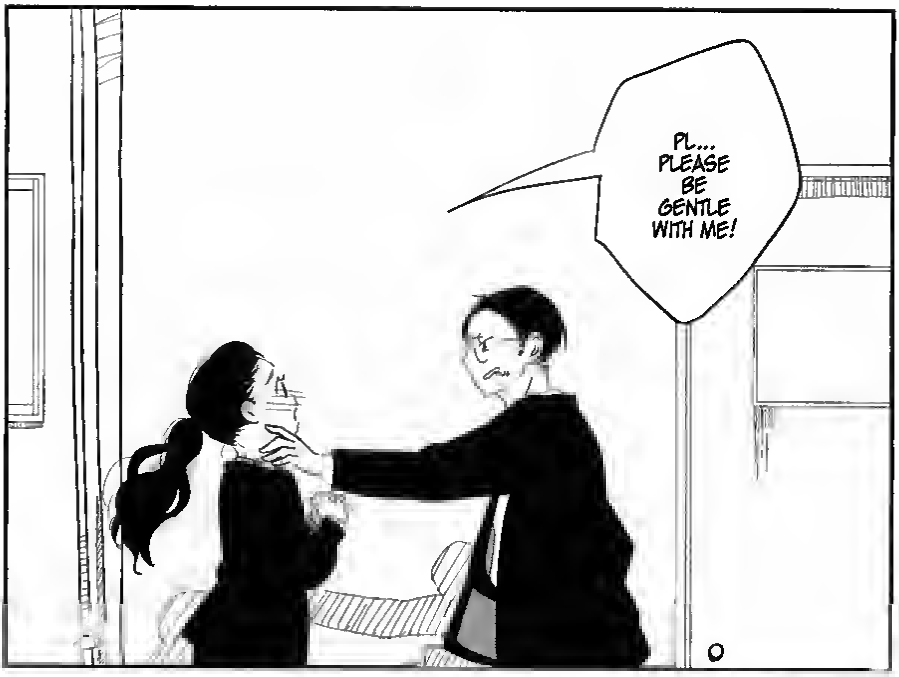
TAKING IT OUT...

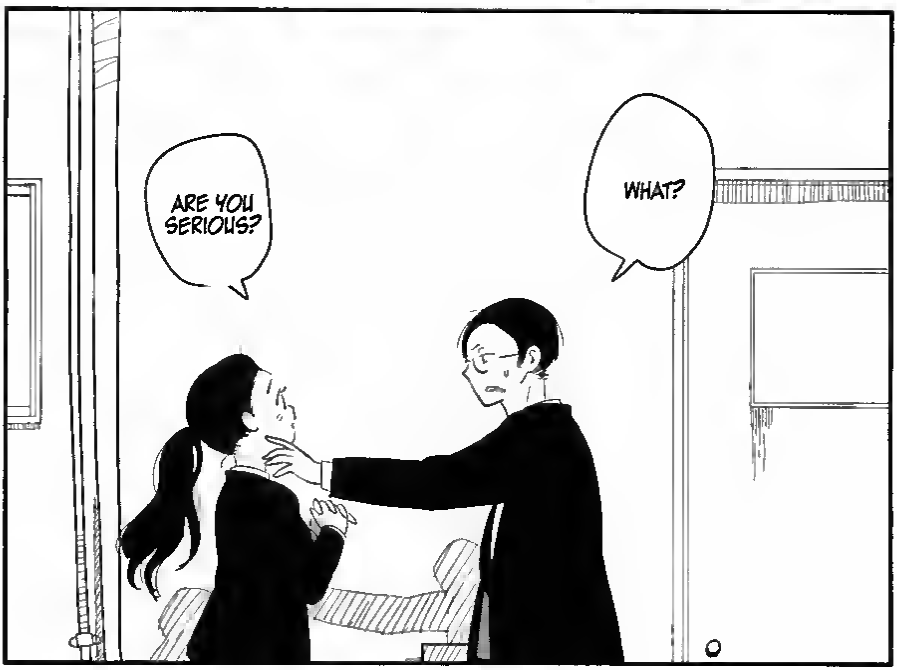
THANK, THANK YOU.
HERE.
I KNEW YOU WERE STUPID, BUT...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY REALLY NICE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

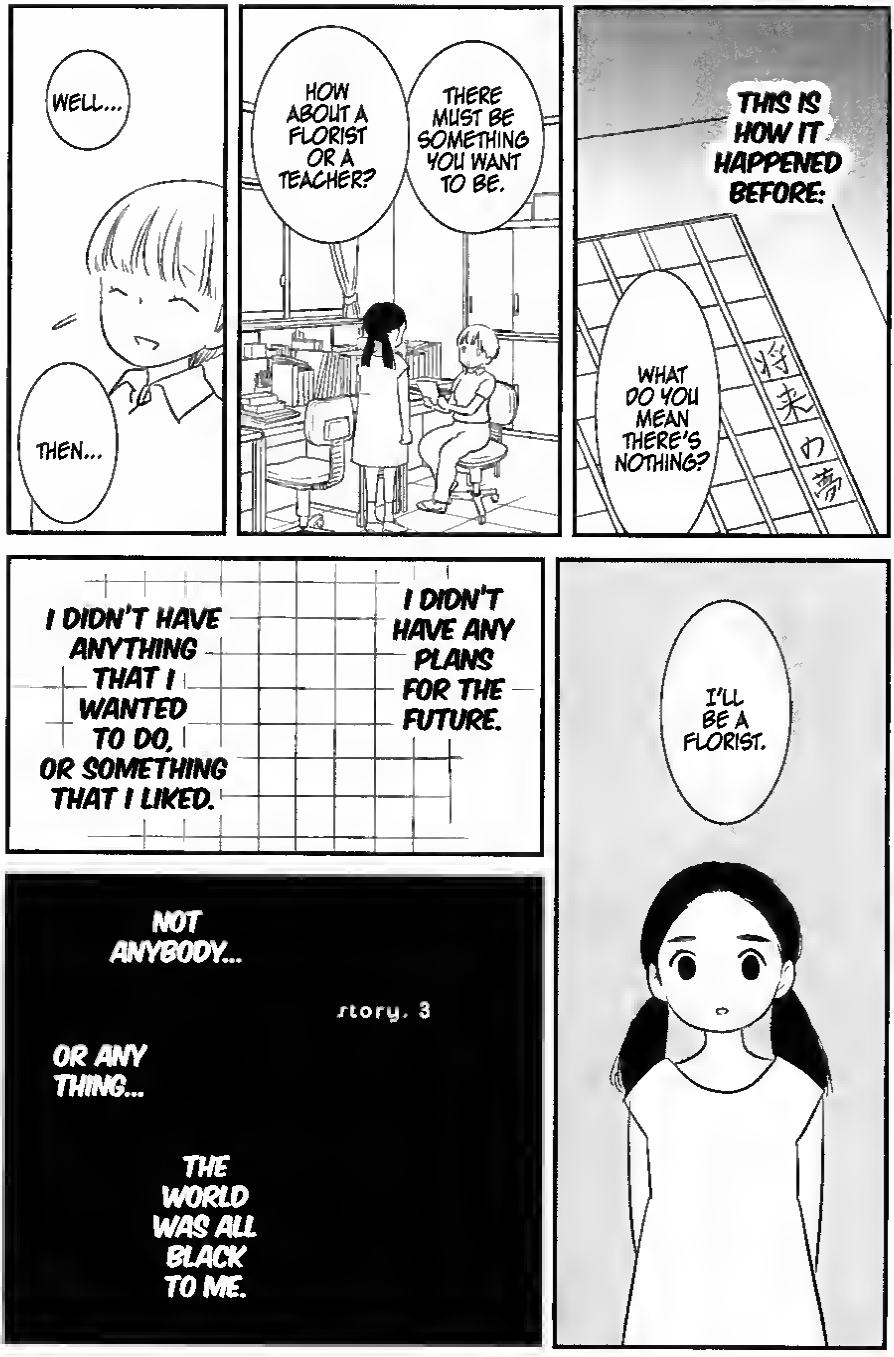
JUST KNOW THAT WHEN PEOPLE CROSS THE LINE ON BEING STUPID, I'LL CALL THEM DUMBASSES.
A DUMBASS,
GOT IT?
IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU POURED ME GREEN TEA.
SO YOU ARE A DUMBASS.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU TAKE CARE OF THE DECEASED WITH YOUR HEART.

I DO IT BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB.
HEY, YOU.
I'M... I'M SORRY!
AND YOU FORGOT TO CLEAN THE POLLEN OUT.
NO IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU CLOSED YOU EYES DURING THE FUNERAL.
DON'T THINK I DIDN'T SEE YOU BEFORE.
AAH!

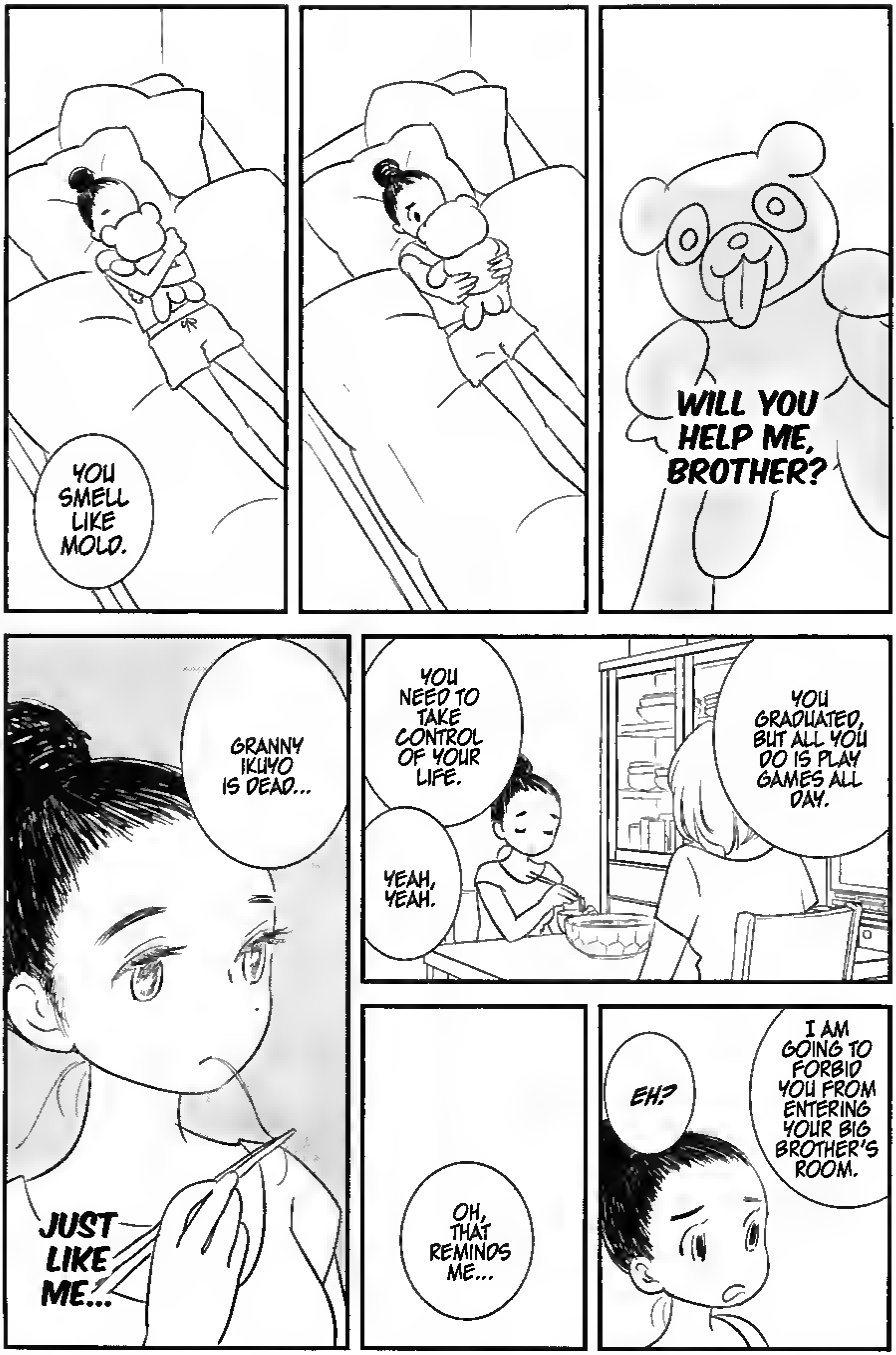
ちゅん…
YOU MUST BE READY TO DIE.

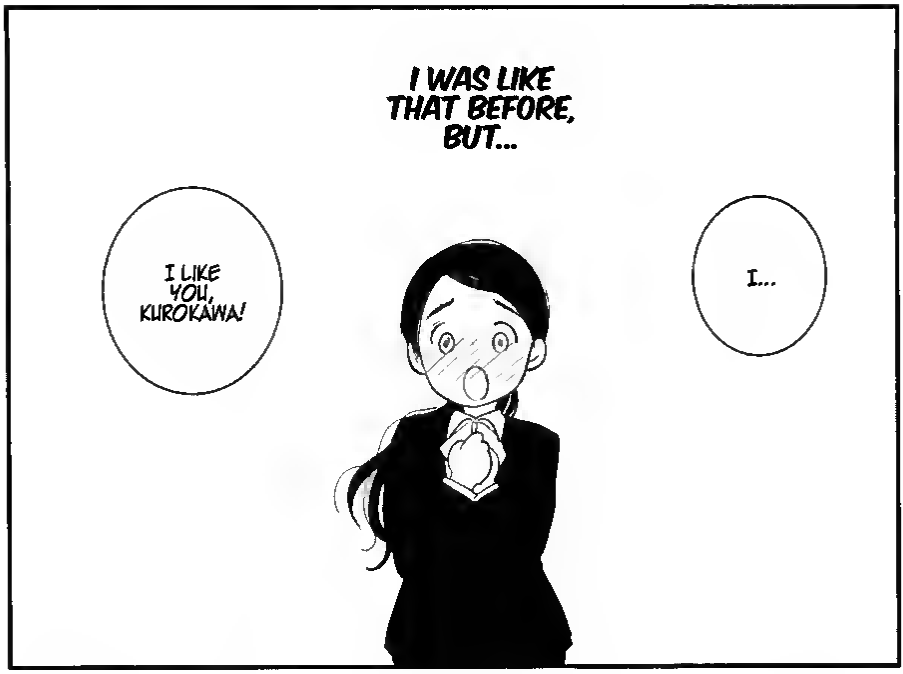

PL... PLEASE BE GENTLE WITH ME!

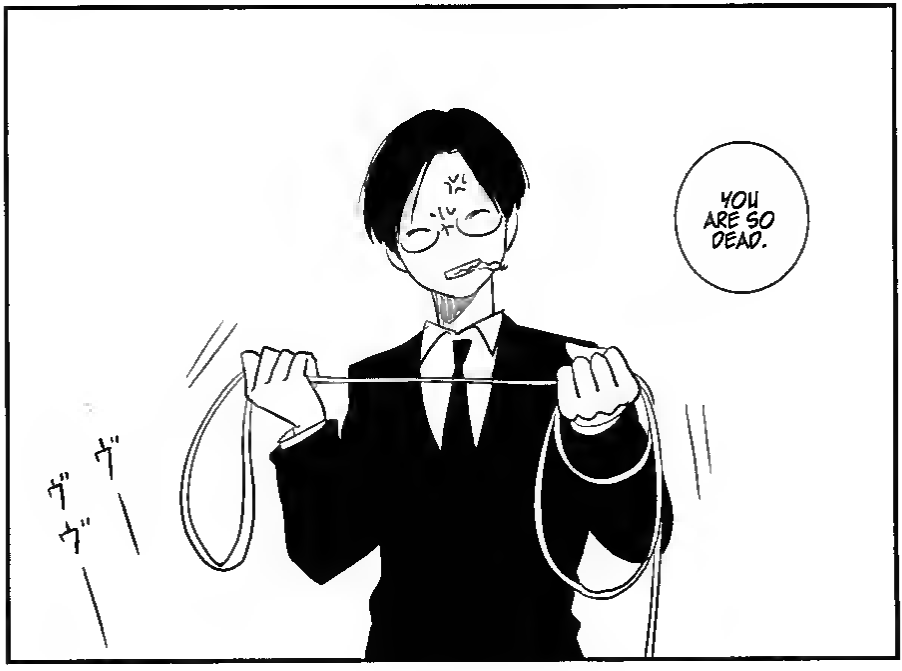

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHAT?


WELL...
THEN...
HOW ABOUT A FLORIST OR A TEACHER?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BE.
THIS IS HOW IT HAPPENED BEFORE:
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NOTHING?
将来の夢
I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT I WANTED TO DO, OR SOMETHING THAT I LIKED.
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.
NOT ANYBODY...
story. 3
OR ANY THING...
THE WORLD WAS ALL BLACK TO ME.
I'LL BE A FLORIST.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
I DON'T REALLY CALL THIS 'LIVING.'
I'M ALIVE, BUT I FEEL DEAD...
I'M GOING TO DESTROY THE WORLD!
SAME.


YOU SMELL LIKE MOLD.
WILL YOU HELP ME, BROTHER?
GRANNY IKUYO IS DEAD...
JUST LIKE ME...
YOU NEED TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE.
YEAH, YEAH.
YOU GRADUATED, BUT ALL YOU DO IS PLAY GAMES ALL DAY.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME...
EH?
I AM GOING TO FORBID YOU FROM ENTERING YOUR BIG BROTHER'S ROOM.


I WAS LIKE THAT BEFORE, BUT...
I LIKE YOU, KUROKAWA!
I...


YOU ARE SO DEAD.
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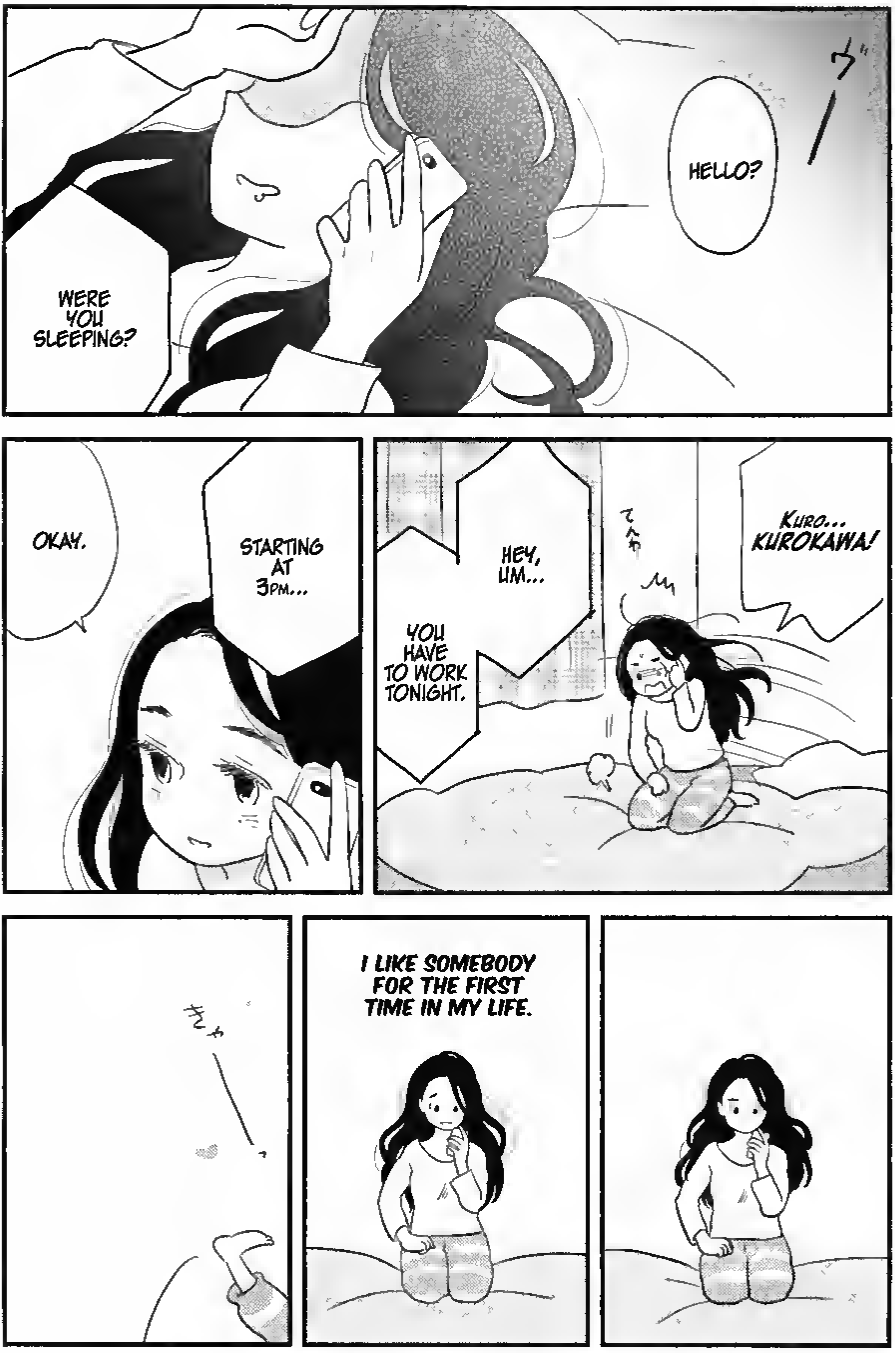
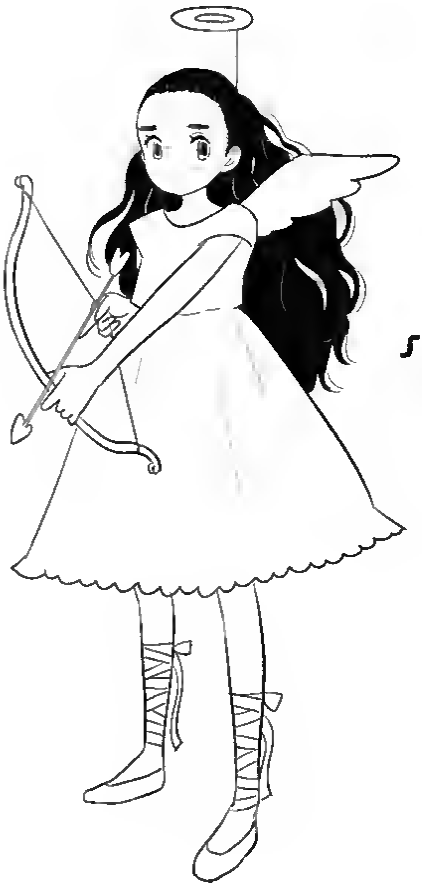
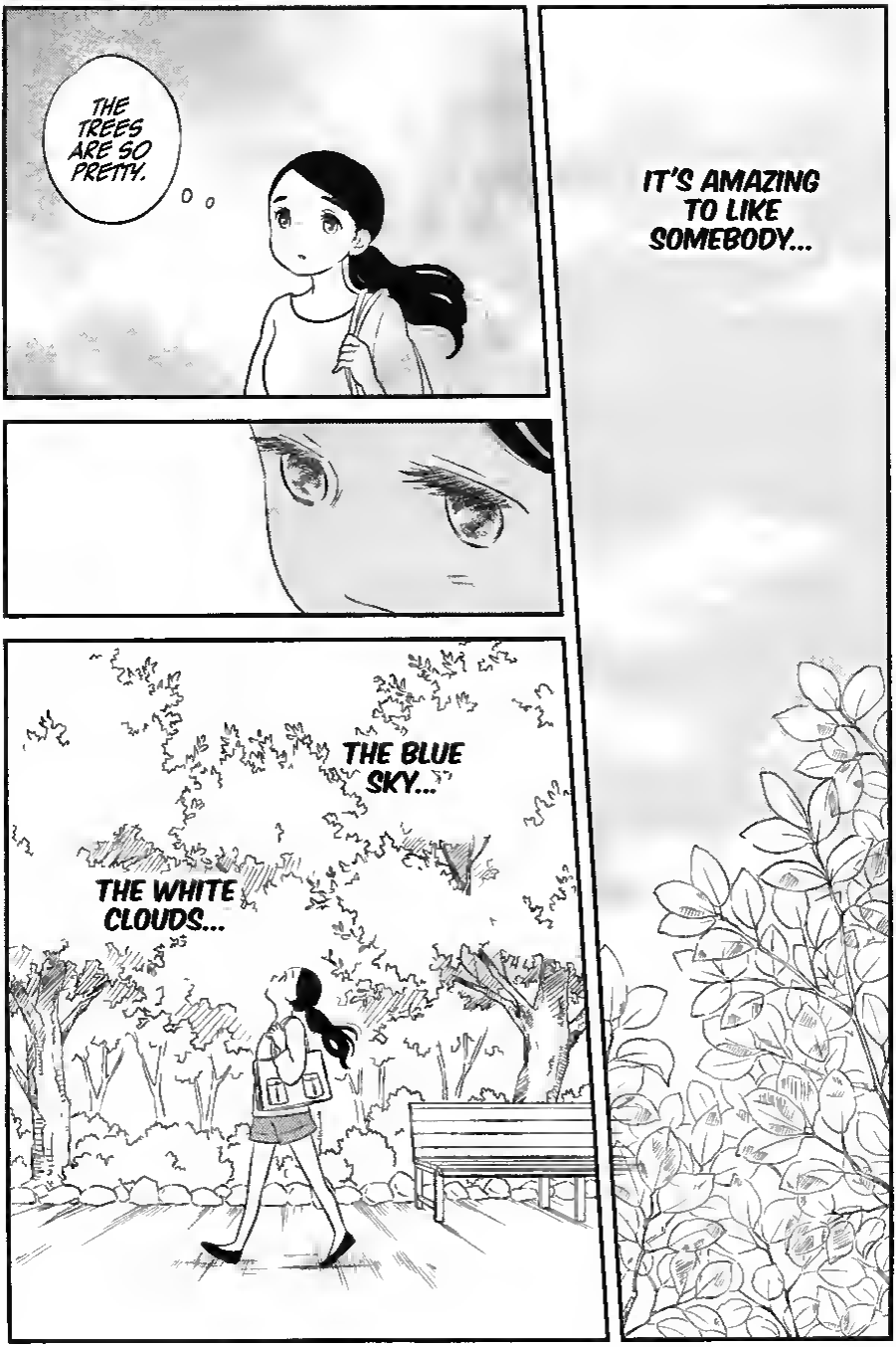
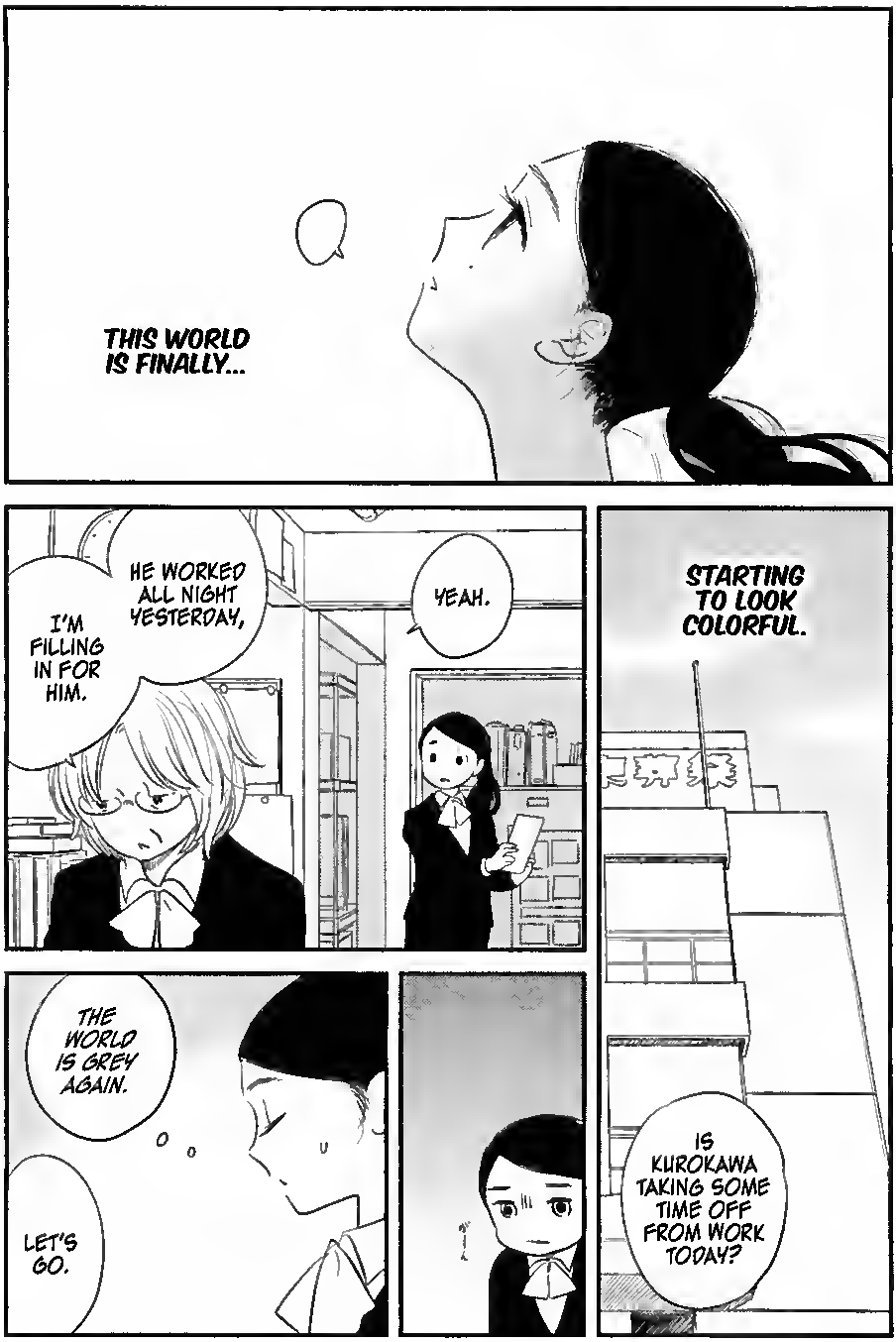

HELLO?
WERE YOU SLEEPING?
OKAY.
STARTING AT 3PM...
HEY, UM...
YOU HAVE TO WORK TONIGHT.
KURO... KUROKAWA!
I LIKE SOMEBODY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

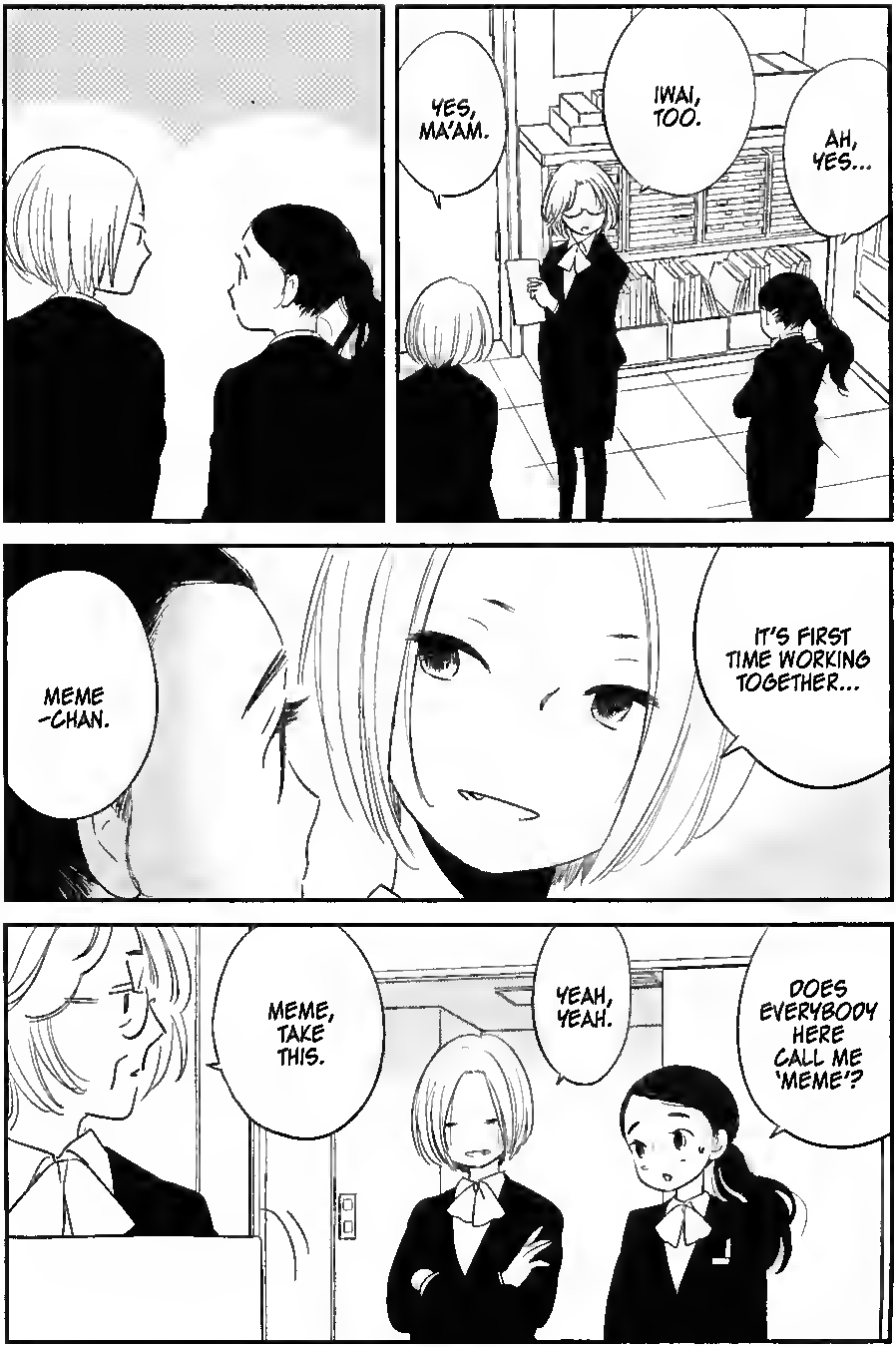
memento mori



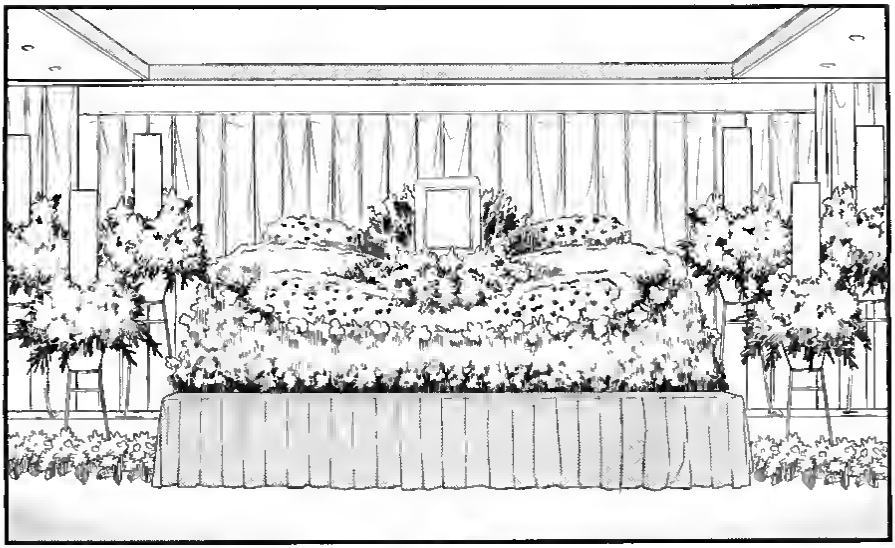
story. 3

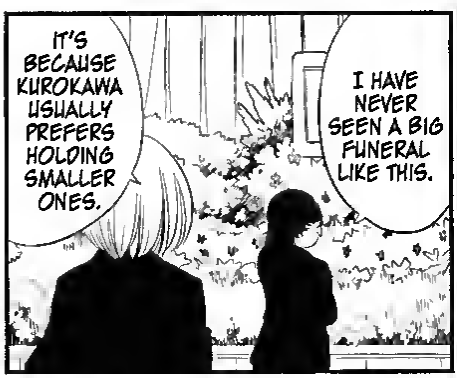

THE TREES ARE SO PRETTY.
IT'S AMAZING TO LIKE SOMEBODY...
THE BLUE SKY...
THE WHITE CLOUDS...

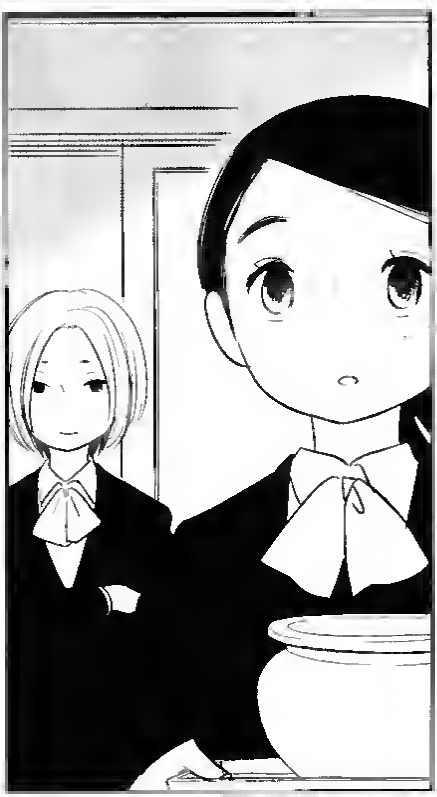

THIS WORLD IS FINALLY...
HE WORKED ALL NIGHT YESTERDAY,
I'M FILLING IN FOR HIM.
YEAH.
STARTING TO LOOK COLORFUL.
IS KUROKAWA TAKING SOME TIME OFF FROM WORK TODAY?
THE WORLD IS GREY AGAIN.
LET'S GO.

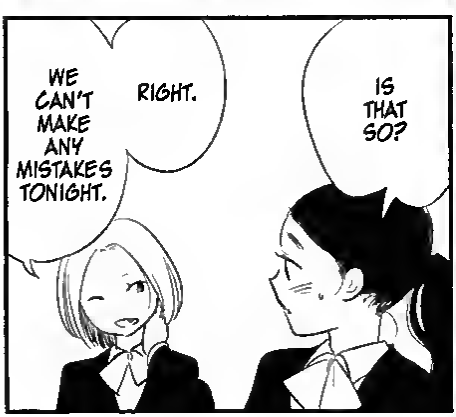

YES, MA'AM.
IWAI, TOO.
AH, YES...
MEME -CHAN.
IT'S FIRST TIME WORKING TOGETHER...
MEME, TAKE THIS.
YEAH, YEAH.
DOES EVERYBODY HERE CALL ME 'MEME'?

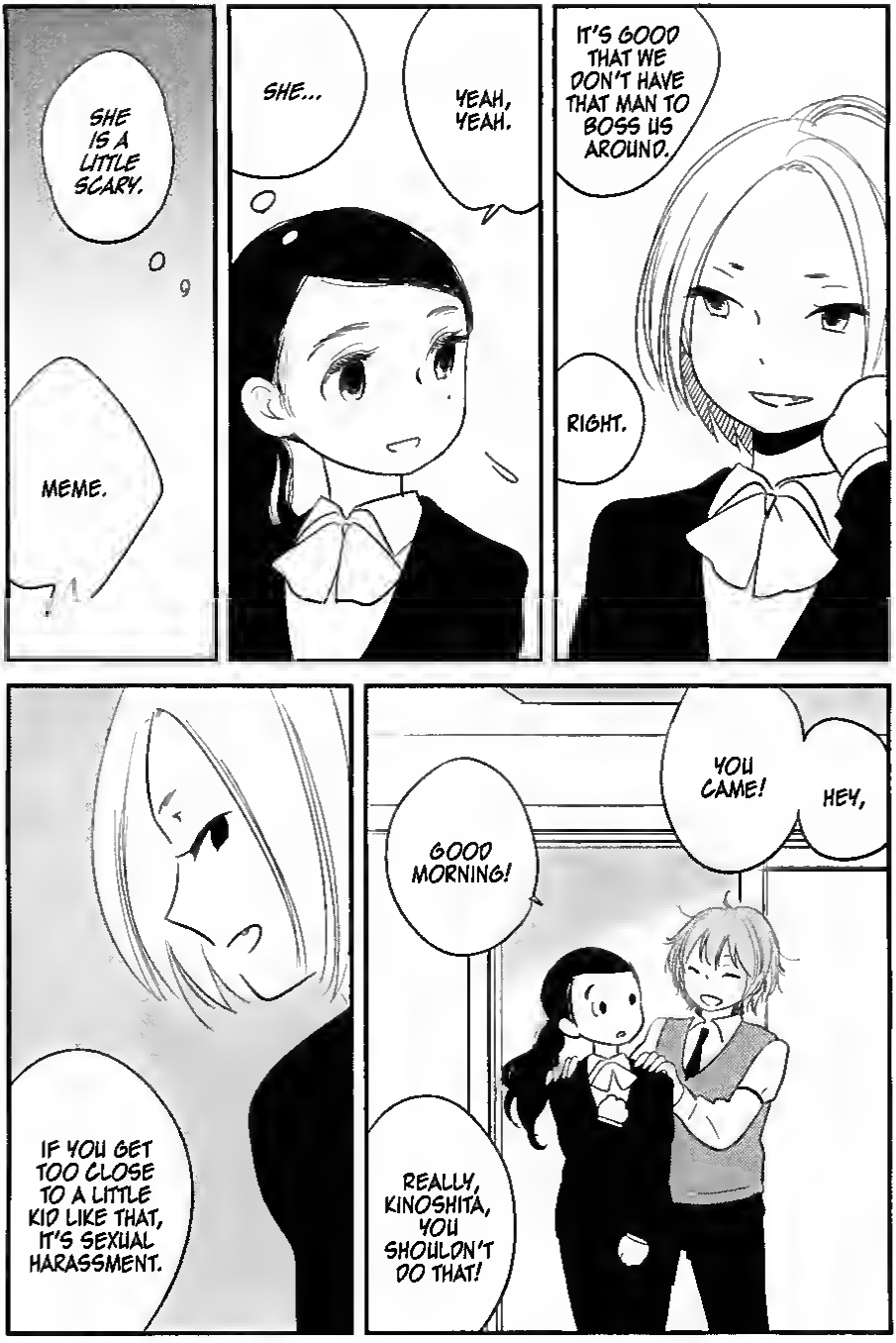
THIS WILL BE A BIG FUNERAL.
THERE'S SO MANY!
UGH, WE'LL BE HERE ALL NIGHT!
WELL, THERE ARE THREE HUNDRED OF THEM.
THERE IS A LOT!
THERE WILL BE A PRETTY HUGE ALTAR ON DISPLAY.
RIGHT. THIS IS THE PRESIDENT OF A BIG COMPANY.
WE'RE ALL HERE EXCEPT FOR KURUKAWA.
WE HAVE A PRETTY BIG NUMBER OF PEOPLE.
AH, THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE IS COMING, TOO.
A PRESIDENT?!



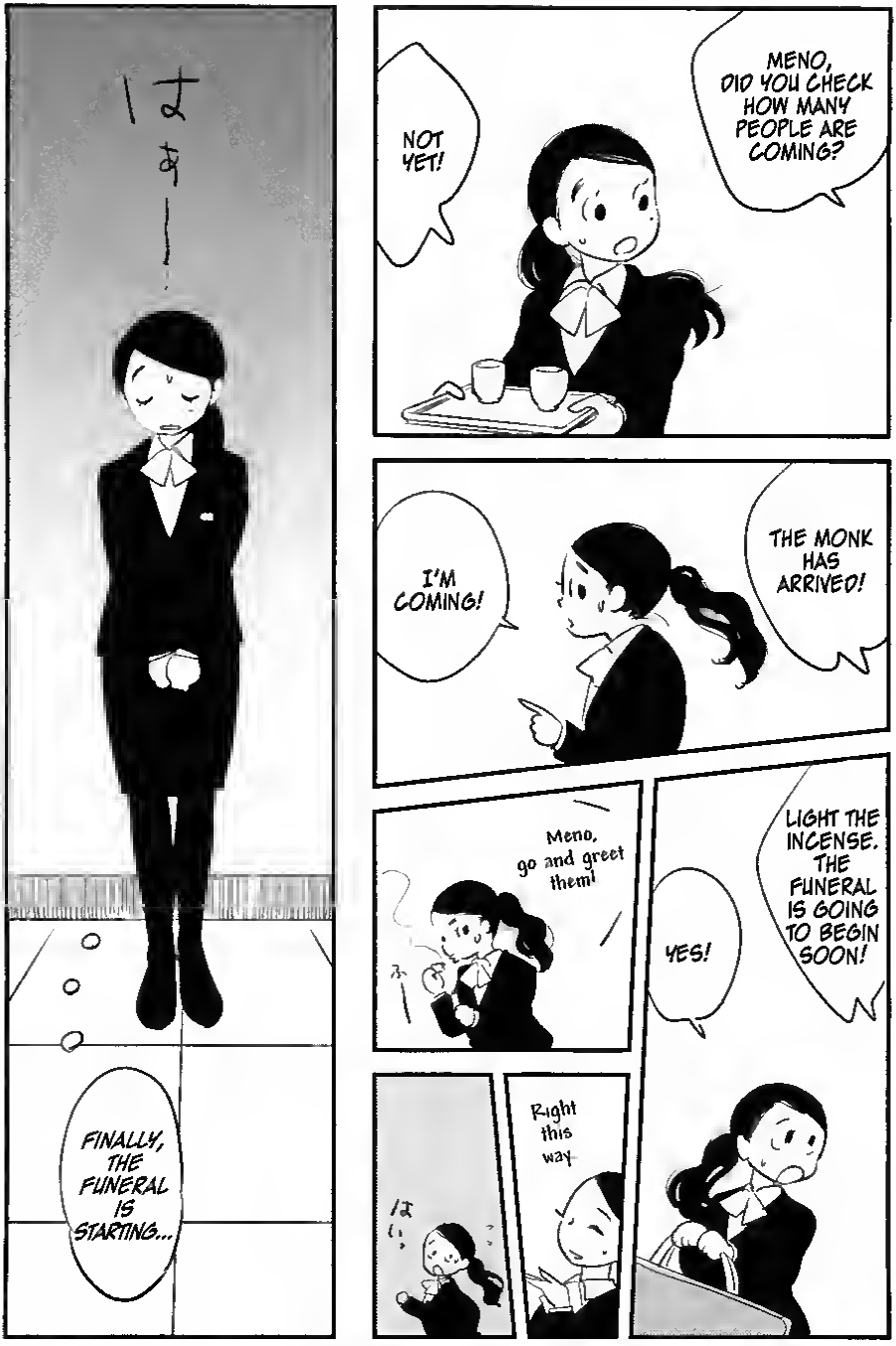

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A BIG FUNERAL LIKE THIS.
IT'S BECAUSE KUROKAWA USUALLY PREFERS HOLDING SMALLER ONES.



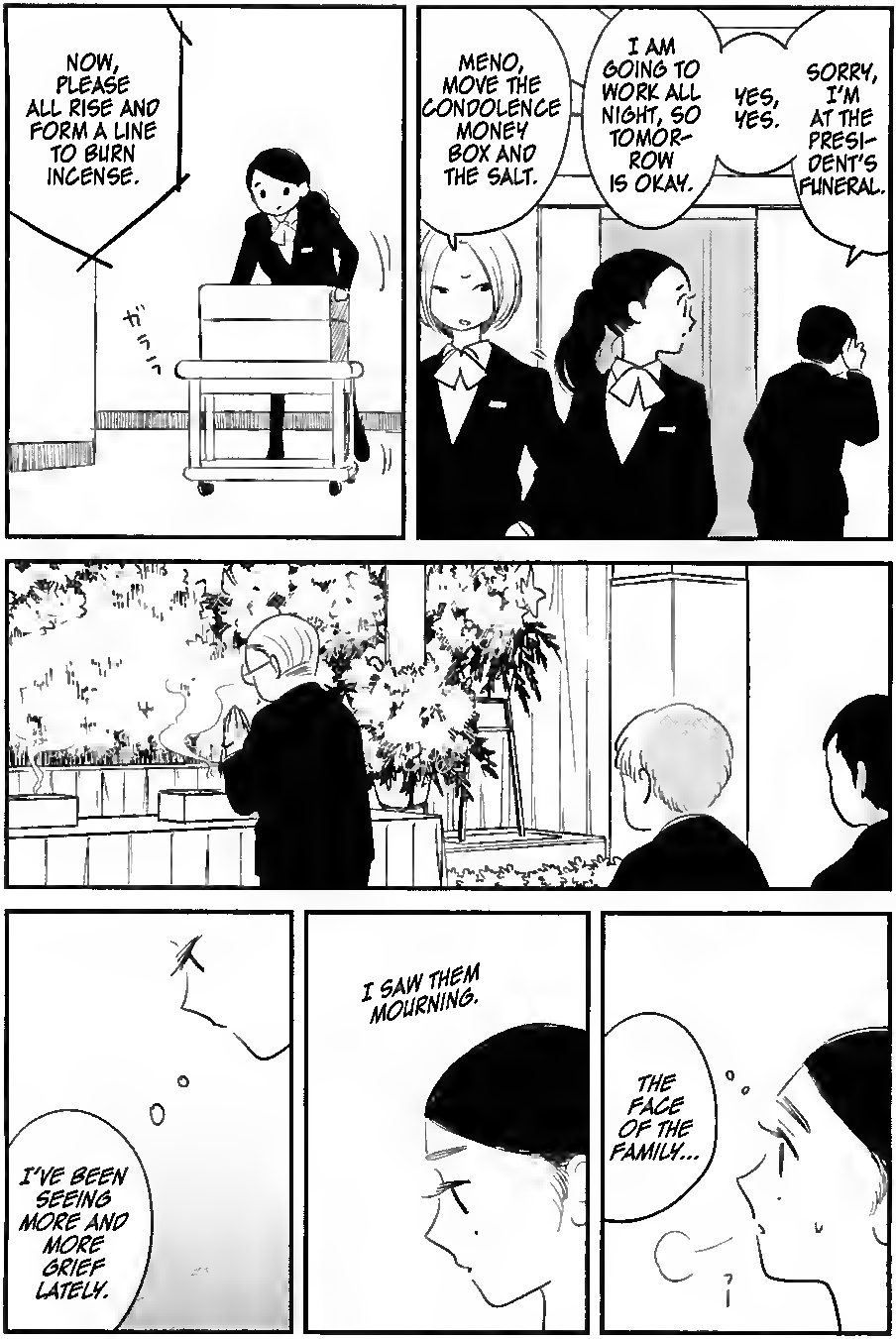

IS THAT SO?
RIGHT.
WE CAN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES TONIGHT.


SHE IS A LITTLE SCARY.
MEME.
SHE...
YEAH, YEAH.
IT'S GOOD THAT WE DON'T HAVE THAT MAN TO BOSS US AROUND.
RIGHT.
IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO A LITTLE KID LIKE THAT, IT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
GOOD MORNING!
YOU CAME!
HEY,
REALLY, KINOSHITA, YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT!

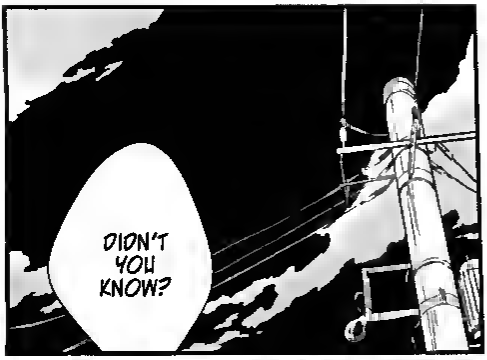
YOU ARE LONELY BECAUSE KUROKAWA IS NOT HERE.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. WE HAVE A GOOD RELATION-SHIP.
RIGHT?
YEAH.
I AM NOT LONELY.
YOU ARE LONELY.
HEY, MENO!
THE GUESTS ARE HERE.
GO AND SERVE THEM!
YES...
YES!


はぁー
FINALLY, THE FUNERAL IS STARTING...
MENO, DID YOU CHECK HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE COMING?
NOT YET!
THE MONK HAS ARRIVED!
I'M COMING!
Meno, go and greet them!
ふー
LIGHT THE INCENSE. THE FUNERAL IS GOING TO BEGIN SOON!
YES!
Right this way
はい。

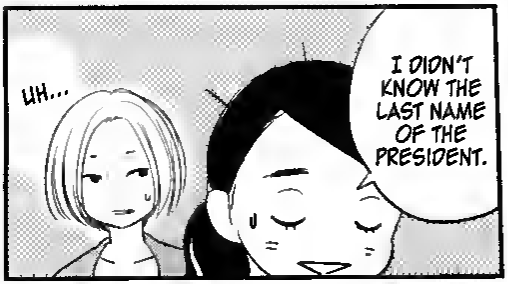
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE.
HEY, I'M SORRY.
DID EVERYBODY LIKE HIM?


NOW, PLEASE ALL RISE AND FORM A LINE TO BURN INCENSE.
ガラガラ
MENO, MOVE THE CONDOLENCE MONEY BOX AND THE SALT.
I AM GOING TO WORK ALL NIGHT, SO TOMORROW IS OKAY.
YES, YES.
SORRY, I'M AT THE PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL.
I'VE BEEN SEEING MORE AND MORE GRIEF LATELY.
I SAW THEM MOURNING.
THE FACE OF THE FAMILY...

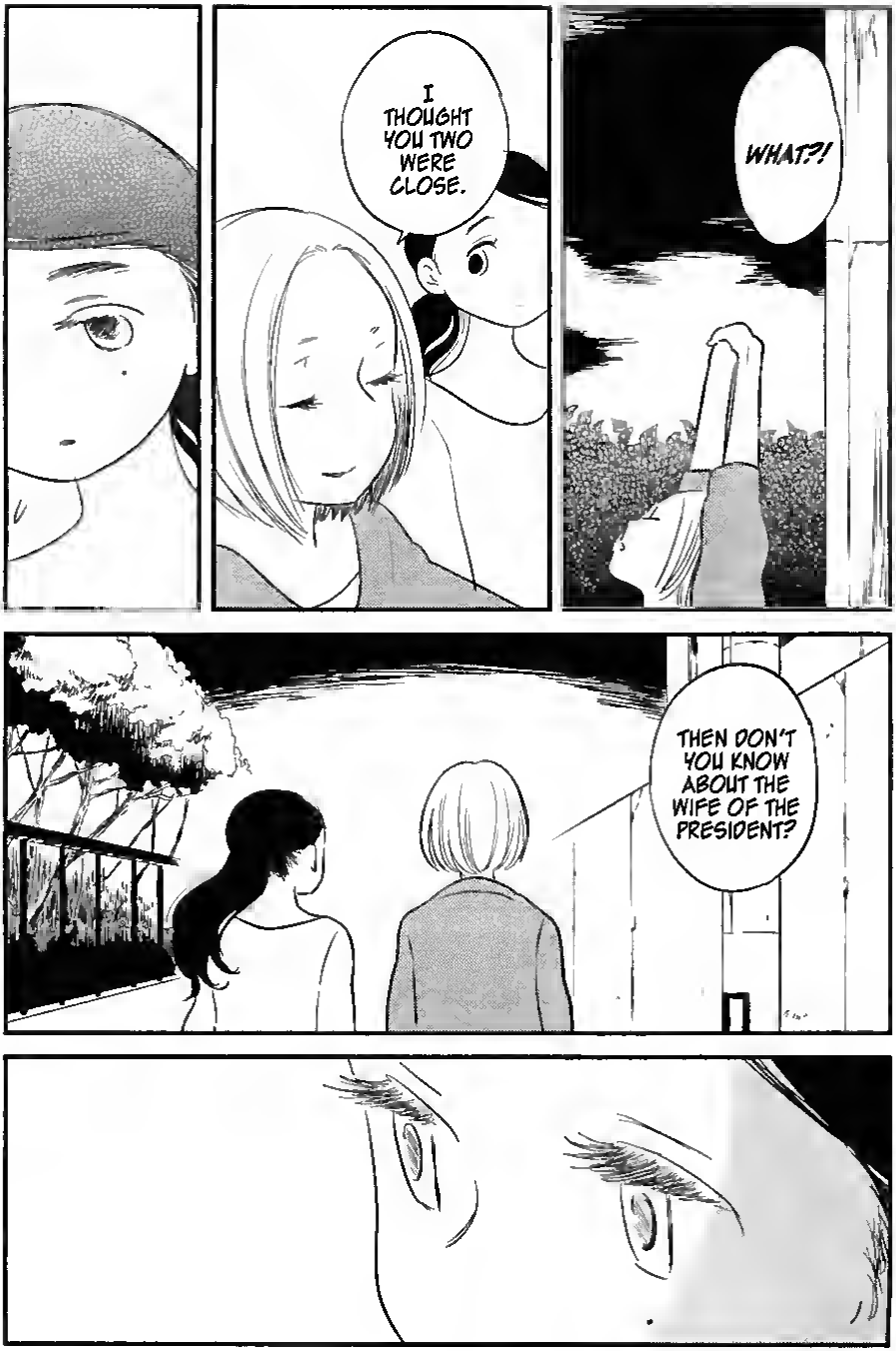
EVERYBODY IS SAYING THAT THIS IS A NICE FUNERAL.
Y... YOU'RE HIS WIFE!
YOU ARE WORKING HARD.
AT LEAST I'M SEEING IT MORE AND MORE PROPERLY.
KUROKAWA...
IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU.
HE IS MY SON.
PLEASE BEAR WITH HIM.


DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

WELL, I DON'T THINK KUROKAWA WOULD TELL YOU.
BUT THEY HAD THE SAME LAST NAME.
NO...


UH...
I DIDN'T KNOW THE LAST NAME OF THE PRESIDENT.

S...
SON?


I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE CLOSE.
WHAT?!
THEN DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT?

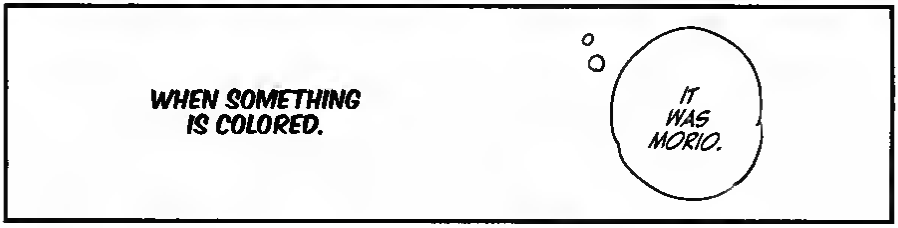
IS KUROKAWA MARRIED?!
HEH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

HE GOT A DIVORCE.

I SEE...
HE GOT A DIVORCE, AND QUIT HIS DAD'S COMPANY AND CAME BACK TO THIS FUNERAL BUSINESS.
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE HIM.

SO PRETTY...

MORIO IS HIS LAST NAME...


WHEN SOMETHING IS COLORED.
IT WAS MORIO.

THE COLOR ISN'T REMOVED EASILY.

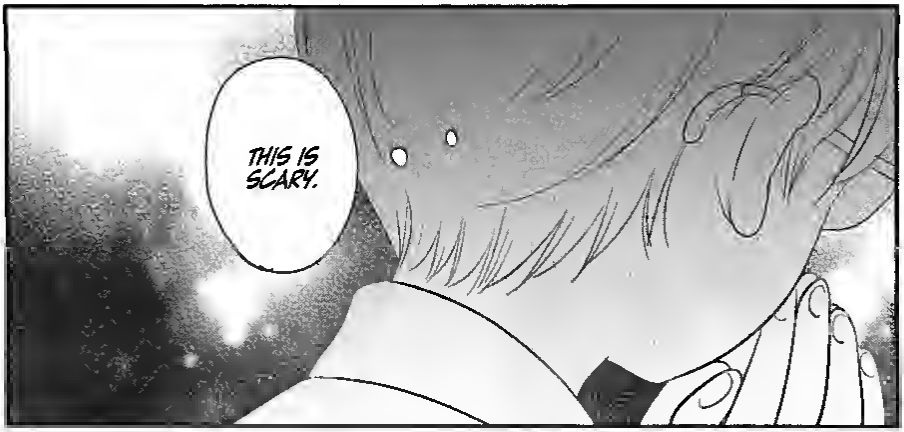
IT'S MONDAY SO WE NEED TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH TODAY.
DON'T FORGET TO BUY SOME MILK AND NAPKINS AT THE STORE!
YES, YES, I GOT IT.
AH, LOOK! MI WANTS YOU TO SAY GOOD BYE TO YOU!
あ！
HAVE A NICE DAY!
AH.
story. 4
YOU'RE FINALY HERE.
ほえ？
UH, YEAH. HAHA.

HAVE A NICE DAY AT WORK!
GOOD LUCK TODAY!
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE A HARD WORKER.
I CAME HOME VERY LATE LAST NIGHT.
DIVORCED
DON'T MAKE ME JEALOUS OF YOUR LIFE THE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, IDIOT.
MORIO KURO-KAWA.
32 YEARS OLD.

I WANT TO KILL HIM.
YES?
IS THAT YOU, MORIO?
YUKI...
HE HAS THE KIND OF HAPPY FAMILY WHICH YOU ONLY DREAM ABOUT.

memento mori
story. 4

SINCE I WAS YOUNG,
I LONGED FOR A NORMAL FAMILY IN A NORMAL HOUSEHOLD.
MORIO,
COME HERE.
IS THIS PERSON DEAD?
WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A FUNERAL FOR THIS PERSON TODAY.
YES.
PUT YOUR HANDS CAREFULLY TOGETHER.
I HATE THIS.



FATHER STARTED THE FUNERAL BUSINESS BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN.

HE GOT POPULAR AROUND OUR TOWN AND THE FAMILY BUSINESS GOT BIGGER AND BIGGER.

WE LIVED IN A BIG HOUSE AND MY PARENTS WERE PROUD OF WHAT THEY DID.

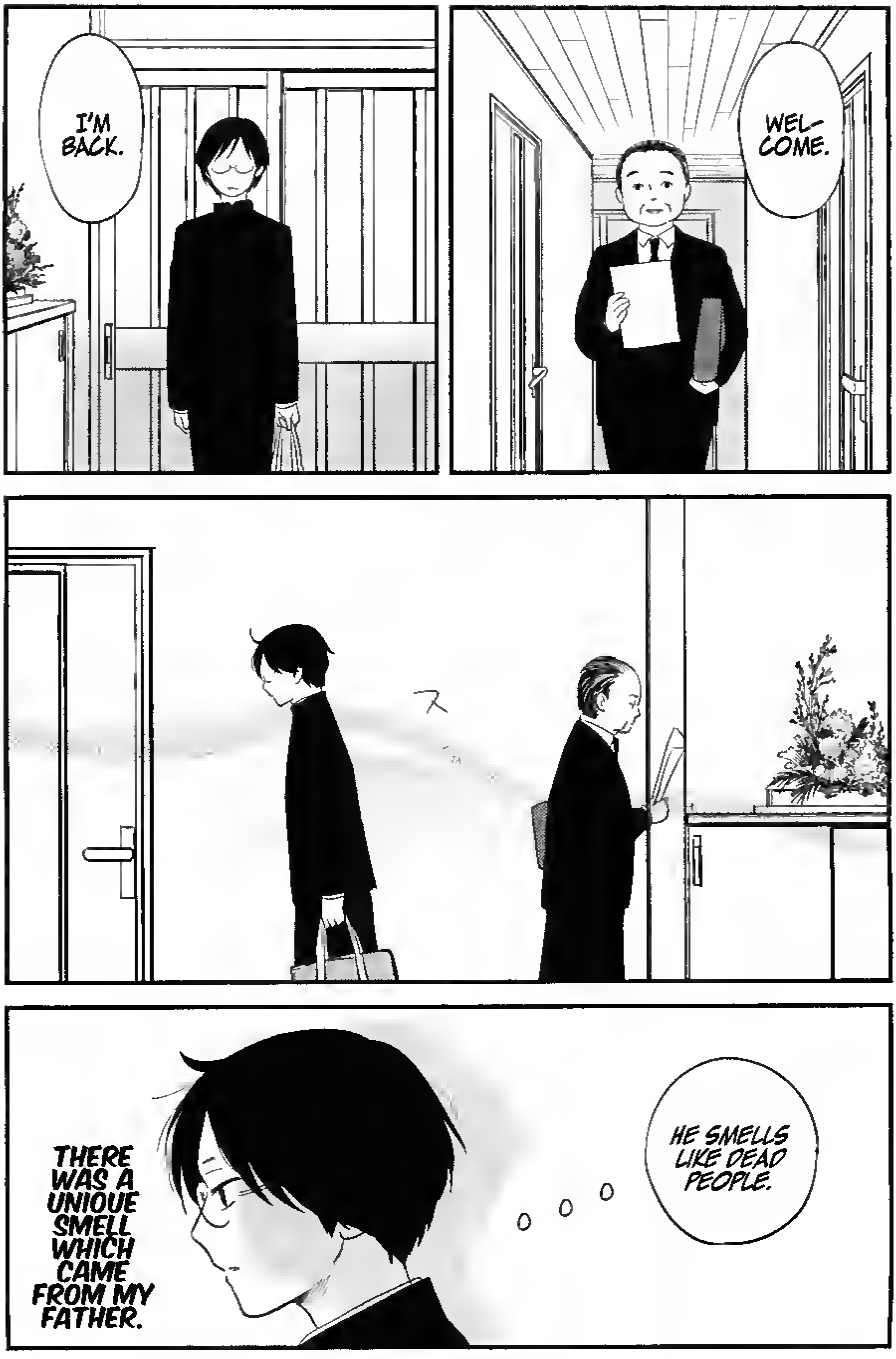
I REALLY HATED THAT MY FAMILY BUSINESS IS A FUNERAL HOME.

I HATED IT BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE THE DEAD BODIES WERE CARRIED RIGHT INTO MY HOME.

I DIDN'T LIKE IT BEING IN THE FUNERAL HOME OR MY FATHER ORDERING ME TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE BODIES.

WHAT I HATED MOST OF ALL WAS...

ARE YOU HOME NOW?


I'M BACK.
WEL-COME.
THERE WAS A UNIQUE SMELL WHICH CAME FROM MY FATHER.
HE SMELLS LIKE DEAD PEOPLE.

I COULD NEVER TELL WHAT IT WAS.

THE DISINFECTION LIQUID FROM HOSPITAL ROOM?
SOMETHING IS ROTTEN?
FORMALIN?
IT SMELLED LIKE DEATH ITSELF.
ANYWAY, THE SMELL STUCK TO MY NOSE.

I RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND THE SMELL AS I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL. I WENT TO A UNIVERSITY FAR AWAY, TO LEARN SOMETHING NOTHING TO DO WITH FUNERALS. ECONOMICS.

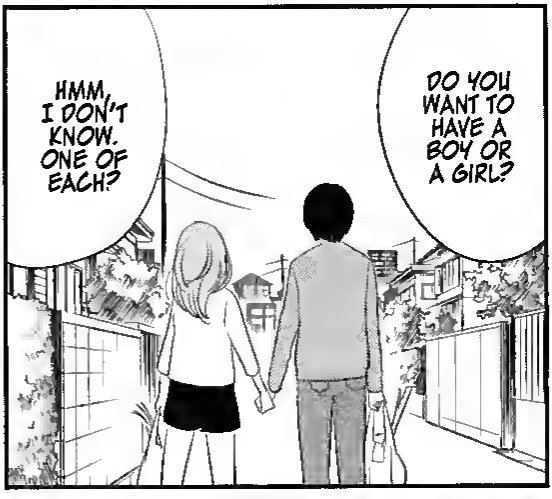
MY OLDER BROTHER IS GOING TO INHERIT THE COMPANY.

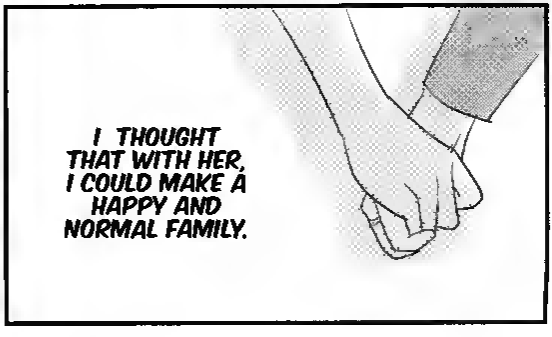
I AM GOING TO HAVE A NORMAL LIFE.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY, I GOT HIRED BY A REAL ESTATE COMPANY.

I MARRIED A WOMAN WHO SEEMED TO BE EASY GOING.
WE MET IN THE LIGHT MUSIC CLUB.
THIS SEEMED LIKE THE MOST NORMAL THING TO DO.

I MESSED UP.
WHY IS DINNER NOT READY?

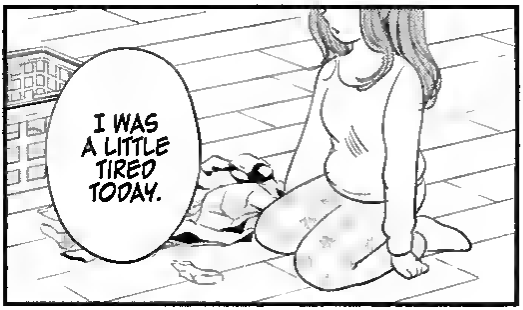

HMM, I DON'T KNOW. ONE OF EACH?
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A BOY OR A GIRL?

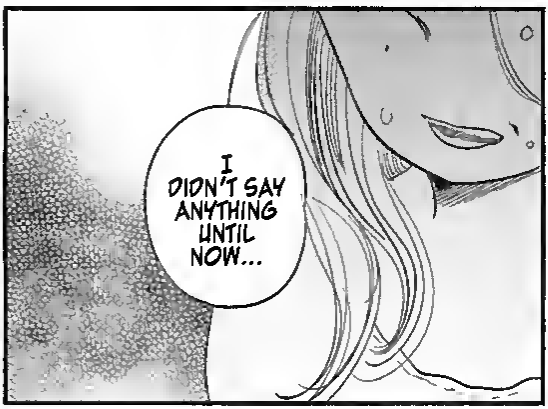

I THOUGHT THAT WITH HER, I COULD MAKE A HAPPY AND NORMAL FAMILY.

I'M SORRY.

ABOUT HALF A YEAR AFTER WE GOT MARRIED,

MY WIFE WAS UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING.





SHE DIDN'T MAKE ANY MEALS AND THE LAUNDRY KEPT GETTING PILED UP AND OUR PLACE BECAME MORE DIRTY EVERY DAY.

I YELLED AT HER BECAUSE I COULDN'T BE PATIENT ANYMORE.

"IT'S SCARY. IT'S SCARY. IT'S SCARY. IT'S SCARY. IT'S SCARY."

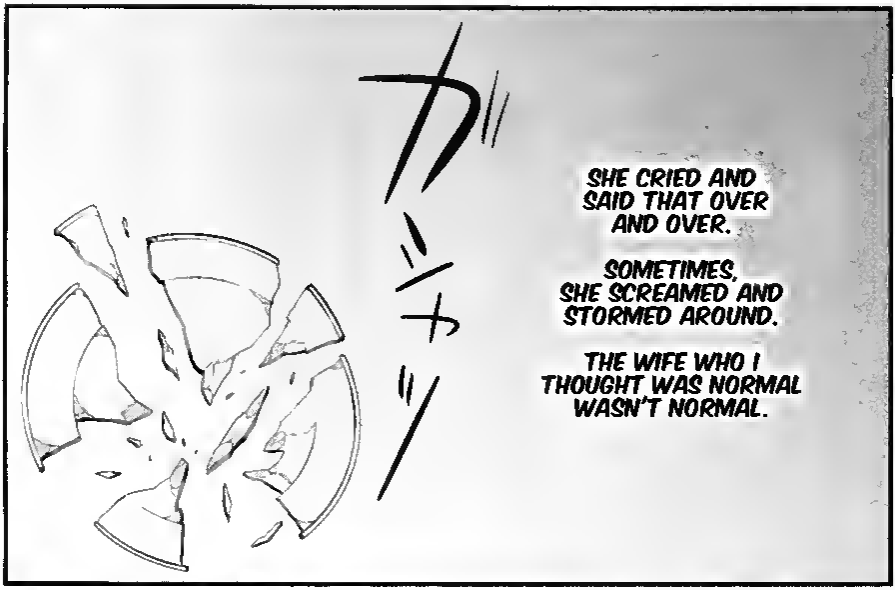
THAT'S WHAT SHE ALWAYS SAID.

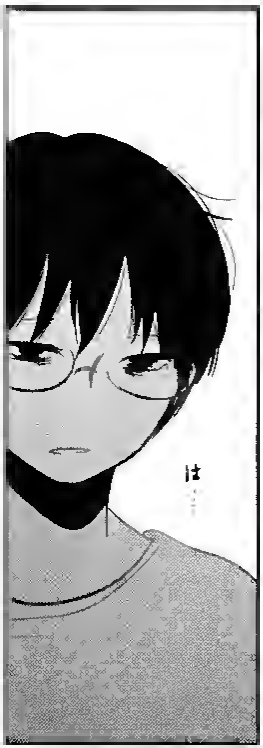
EVERYTHING COULD JUST DISSAPEAR.

SHE WAS SCARED TO BE HAPPY.

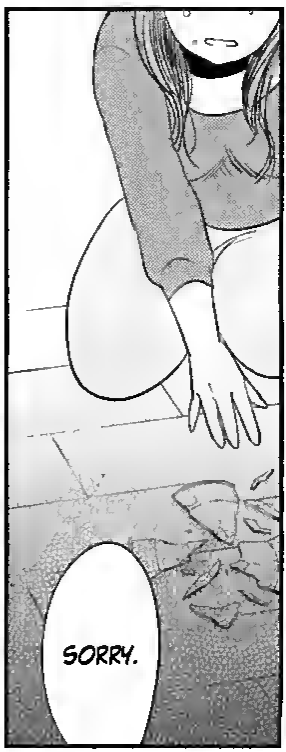
SHE SAID IT WAS SCARY TO CREATE A FAMILY. A HOUSEHOLD. IF SHE COULD LOSE IT ALL

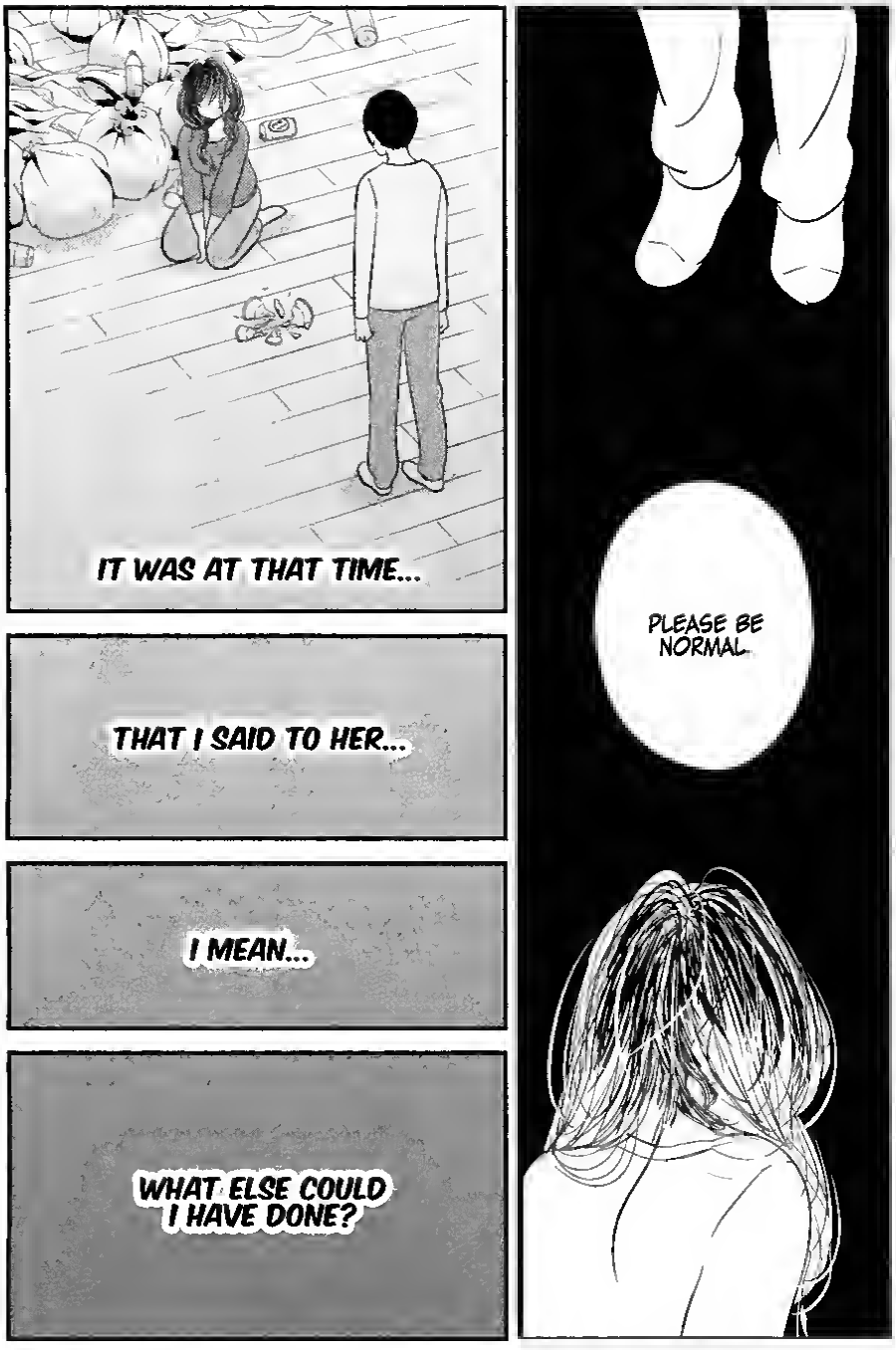
SHE TOLD ME HOW HAPPY HER FAMILY WAS, BUT SUDDENLY SHE LOST BOTH HER PARENTS IN AN ACCIDENT.


SHE CRIED AND SAID THAT OVER AND OVER.
SOMETIMES, SHE SCREAMED AND STORMED AROUND.
THE WIFE WHO I THOUGHT WAS NORMAL WASN'T NORMAL.



I'M SORRY!
WHY DID THINGS BECOME LIKE THIS?


SORRY.


IT WAS AT THAT TIME...
THAT I SAID TO HER...
I MEAN...
WHAT ELSE COULD I HAVE DONE?
PLEASE BE NORMAL

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER I TOLD HER I WANTED TO LEAVE.
THERE WAS A BELT HANGING FROM A DOOR KNOB AND SHE WASN'T MOVING.
THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER CLEARLY WAS THE SOUND OF THE AMBULANCE.
THE POLICE WERE CALLED.
LOOK, MORIO...
WHAT IS 'NORMAL' REALLY?

I HUGGED HER...
WHAT IS NORM--
I HAVE TO ABANDON HER
I GUESS THAT'S IT...
IT WAS VERY COLD THAT DAY.
I FILED THE DIVORCE PAPERS.
THEY WERE HER IDEA.
I FELT RELIEVED.
SHE SMELLED LIKE THAT HOSPITAL SMELL THAT I RAN AWAY FROM.
離婚届

NO MORE.
NOTHING.
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING ANYMORE.
MORIO.

COME BACK HOME.
THAT WAS THE FIRST THING MY DAD SAID TO ME SINCE I MOVED OUT.
BODIES
I STARTED TO HELP IN THE FUNERAL BUSINESS.
I FORCED MYSELF TO COME HOME
I HATE THIS SO MUCH.
NOT EVEN A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT SMELLING THAT SMELL.
12
11
18
17

A PLACE WHERE THINGS LIKE THIS IS NORMAL.
EVERY-BODY...
EVERYBODY DIES.
THAT OBVIOUS FACT REASSURES ME

I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL ALIVE ANYMORE.
YOU ARE MAKING PATHETIC MISTAKES LIKE THIS
I'LL KILL YOU.
BECAUSE OF YOU, ONE MORE PERSON QUIT THIS JOB.
PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO QUIT OVER ME WERE GOING TO QUIT THIS PLACE, ANYWAY.
WELL, THAT IS TRUE, BUT...
IF SOMEBODY QUIT, THAT MEANS THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM ANYMORE. SO I WAS OKAY WITH THAT.
I HATE PEOPLE THAT SMILE.
THEY THINK THAT I'M MEAN OR ANGRY AT THEM, BUT I'M JUST JEALOUS.
THIS IS PATHETIC.

ANOTHER PERSON WITH A STUPID SMILE.
はー
I WONDER HOW SOON SHE WILL QUIT.
MY NAME IS MENO!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
SHE IS SLEEPING AT THE FUNERAL!
TH...THIS BITCH!

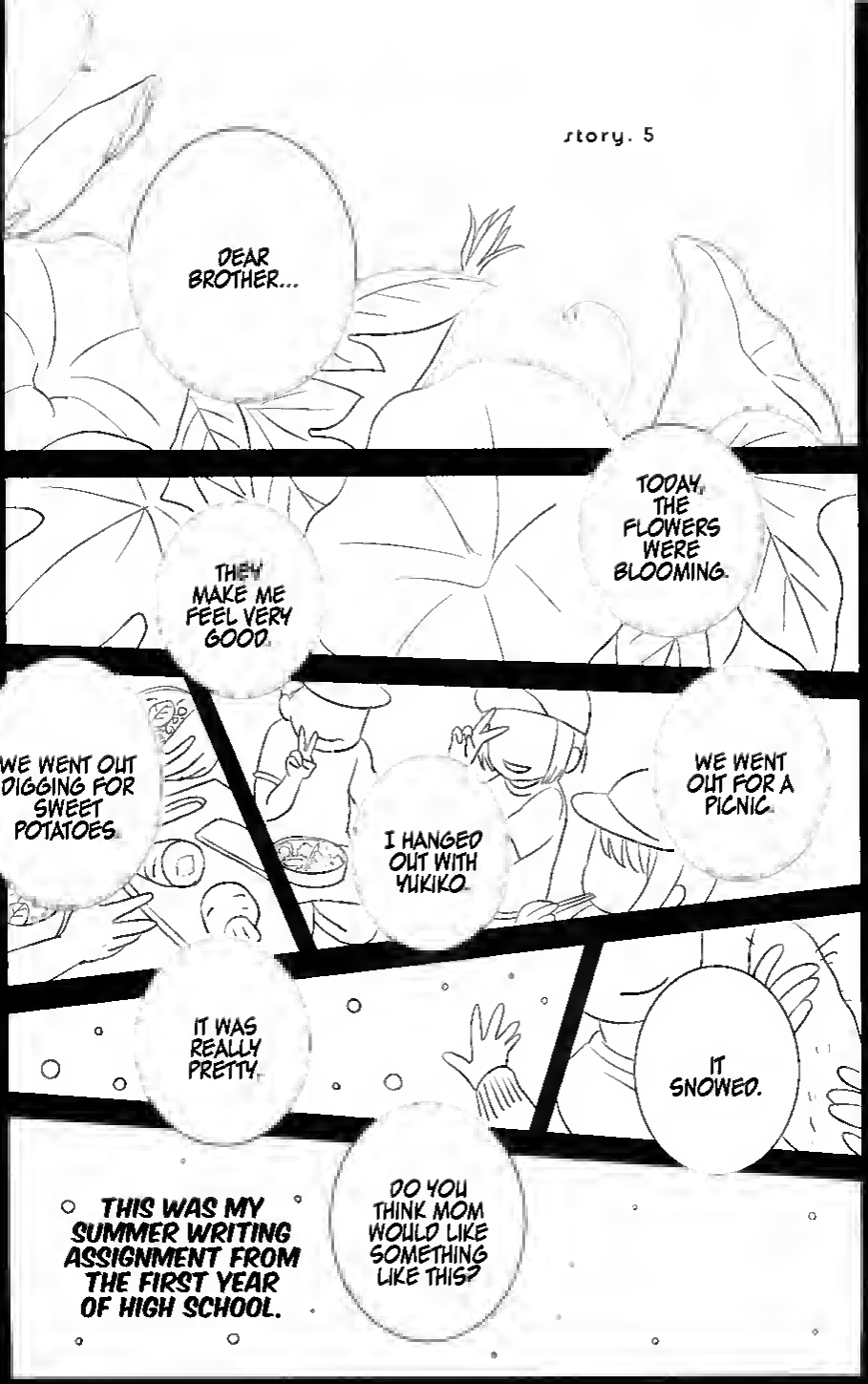
HAVE YOU EVEN LOOKED AT THE BODY YET?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
HOW CAN THIS GIRL SLEEP THROUGH THE ENTIRE FUNERAL?
HMM...
SHE DOESN'T FEEL MUCH EMOTION.
AH!
YES!
IT FEELS LIKE HER FEELINGS ARE SLOWLY SLIDING DOWN.
SHE IS ONLY FEELING SAD ON THE SURFACE.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS CRYING FROM WATCHING THE FAMILY CRY.

SHE HAD AN ATTITUDE WHICH SEEMED LIKE SHE WOULD QUIT INSTANTLY.
I HAVE TO FACE MY EMOTIONS EVERY DAY.
WELL...
BUT SHE WAS ALSO VERY PATIENT.
SHE LOOKS HAPPY.
ALSO...
MOST PEOPLE WON'T KNOW...
SHE LOOKS VERY HAPPY.

This face, this attitude...
I WAS SAD BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T AROUND BEFORE.
I KNEW THAT I WAS BEING TOO HARD ON MENO THOUGH
HELLO!
What is she trying to do here?
AH, RIGHT. HOW ABOUT GOING OUT DRINKING WITH ME LATER?
I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED BEFORE WHEN I WAS A STUDENT.
WHAT IS GOING ON IN HER HEAD?
I'LL KILL YOU.
THIS WOMAN IS IN LOVE WITH ME.

OKAY!
スー
THAT SMELL.
THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN I CAME BACK TO THIS COMPANY.
AH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YEAH.
I REMARRIED.
YEAH. I'M SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US.
SO, DO YOU FEEL ANY BETTER?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
NO, BUT I'M LIVING A NORMAL LIFE.


DEAR BROTHER...
TODAY, THE FLOWERS WERE BLOOMING.
THEY MAKE ME FEEL VERY GOOD.
WE WENT OUT DIGGING FOR SWEET POTATOES.
I HANGED OUT WITH YUKIKO.
WE WENT OUT FOR A PICNIC.
IT WAS REALLY PRETTY.
IT SNOWED.
THIS WAS MY SUMMER WRITING ASSIGNMENT FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
DO YOU THINK MOM WOULD LIKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

I KEPT WRITING LETTERS LIKE THAT TO MY BROTHER.

I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN CLASS THAT STILL WROTE THESE.

WE HAD TO DO THE SAME THING IN OUR 2ND YEAR.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO WRITE A LETTER TO SOMEBODY IN OUR FAMILY.

I TOLD MY BROTHER THINGS THAT I WOULD NEVER HAVE TOLD MOM.

A LETTER ABOUT EVERYTHING I FELT.

A LETTER ABOUT SOMETHING FUN.

A LETTER ABOUT SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.

A LETTER ABOUT THE THINGS I LIKED.

I WANTED TO TELL MY BROTHER EVERYTHING.

I WENT TO THE FOREST TODAY...

DEAR BROTHER...

memento mori story. 5

MY WIFE WILL BE SO HAPPY IN HEAVEN.
A BIG THANK YOU FOR EVERYBODY WHO CAME HERE TODAY.
THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

I ALMOST CRIED TODAY.
ME, TOO.
HE KEPT CRYING THE WHOLE SPEECH.
HE HAD TO BURY HIS FATHER RECENTLY, TOO...
WERE YOU THERE FOR THAT, KUROKAWA.
AH...
ABOUT A YEAR AGO...
IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO, ACTUALLY.
HIS WIFE WAS HEALTHY BEFORE.
HE MUST HAVE LIKED HER VERY MUCH.

THEY WERE SO MUCH IN LOVE.
THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER.
WELL, ACTUALLY--
KLANG!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MEME?
AH!
I'M SORRY!
I'M SO SORRY!
BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.
ひく。

FROM THE DARKNESS OF ASH...
YOU ARE NOT THIS NICE NORMALLY
HUH?!
I'M ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
WHY ARE YOU SO NICE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THE WHITENESS OF SNOW. THE BLUE OF THE SKY
DO YOU...
THE COLOR OF FLOWERS...
EVERYTHING BECOMES DARKER AND DARKER.
STILL LOVE YOUR WIFE?

DEAR BROTHER...
Tsk
the color of the
WHAT COLOR IS THE WORLD?
IT'S LIKE...
IT CAN'T BE A PRETTY COLOR.
EVERYTHING CRUMBLES.
EVERYTHING BREAKS.

THIS IS PATHETIC.
AND STUPID.
UGH, WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO BE SO COMPLICATED?
AH, THIS IS SO HARD TO EXPLAIN.
THIS FEELING.
I HATE THIS.
IT JUST BECOMES WORSE.
I TRY TO PILE ON MORE AND MORE POETIC WORDS...
THIS IS SO UGLY.
AH?
CAN I GET TWO BEERS, PLEASE?
UH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT KIND OF OFFICE PARTY IS THIS?
IT'S A WELCOME PARTY.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A MONTH SINCE I GOT HIRED.
MANY PEOPLE QUIT LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER THEY STARTED WORKING,
SO OUR WELCOME PARTY IS A MONTH AFTER YOU JOIN.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF KURO-KAWA.
I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT.
WHY IS IT ONLY US TWO?
IT'S HARD TO GATHER EVERY-BODY.
AND I'M TOO TIRED TO DEAL WITH THEM.
THIS BEER IS GOOD.
WHAT IS IT AGAIN?

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GO HAVE SOME DRINKS TOGETHER.
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WOULD REALLY DO IT.
I WANTED TOO...
WELL, I DID, BUT...
I AM HAPPY.
I AM VERY HAPPY.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY...
I LIKE YOU, KUROKAWA!
LOOK...

KUROKAWA!
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE DRUNK.
AH, YES, YES, OKAY...
I REALLY LIKE YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU.
UWA!
S... SORRY.
YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING TOO MUCH.

THAT'S IT!
THAT!
I LIKE IT WHEN YOU SAY THAT!
LET'S GO HOME.
AH, YOU REALLY ARE WASTED.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY THAT MORE OFTEN?
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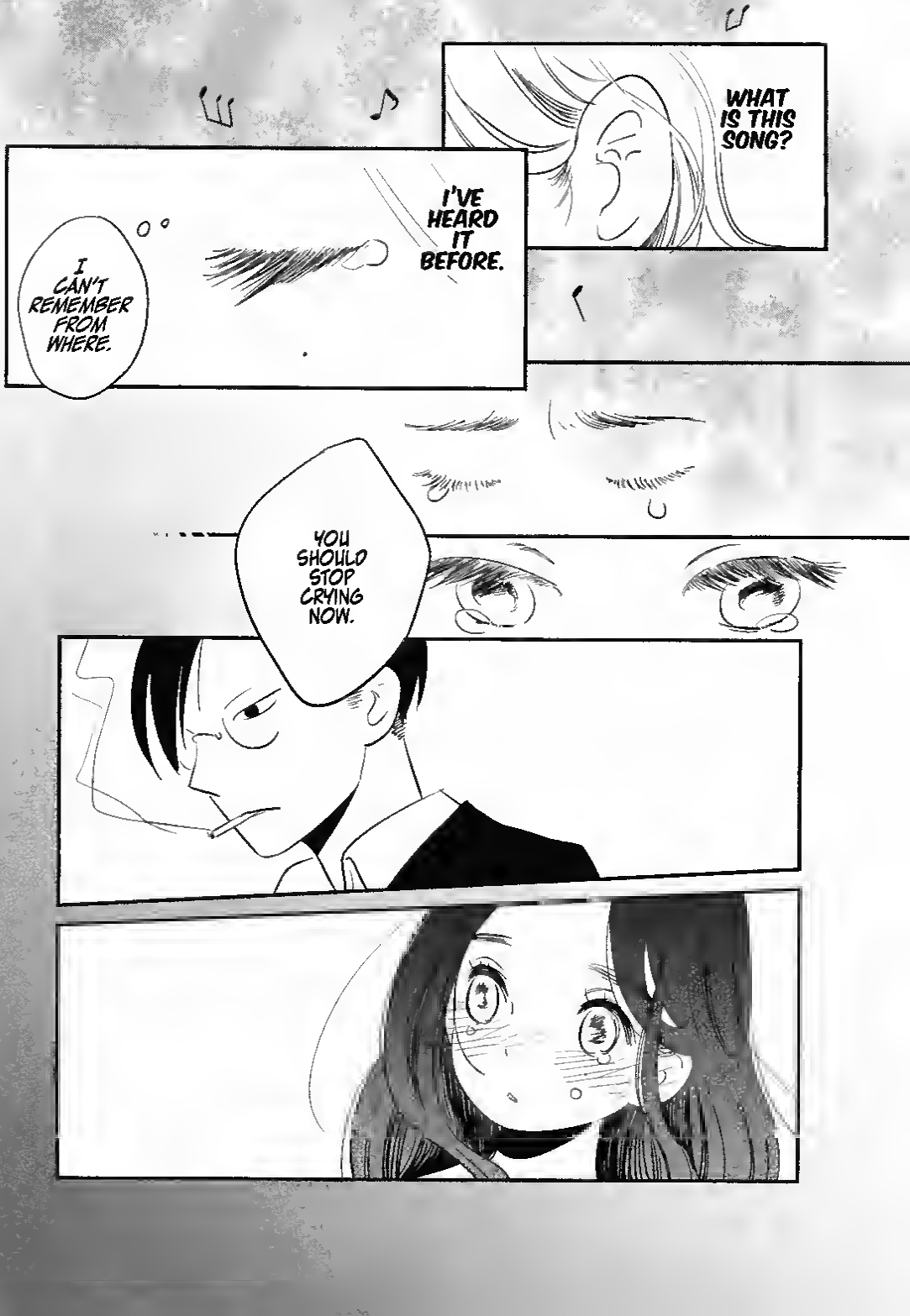
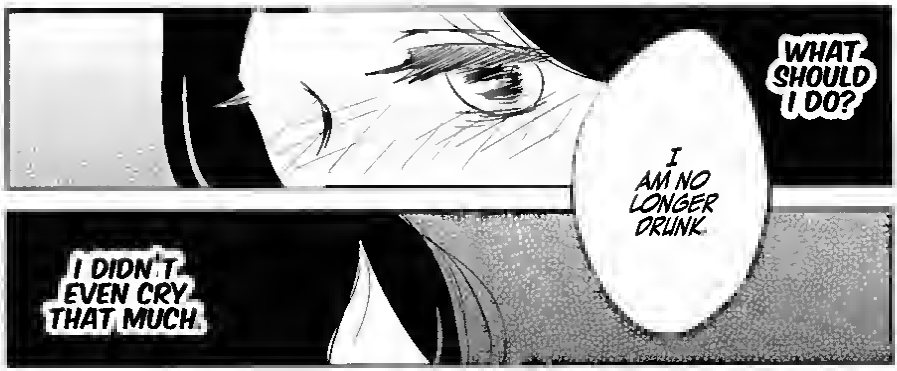
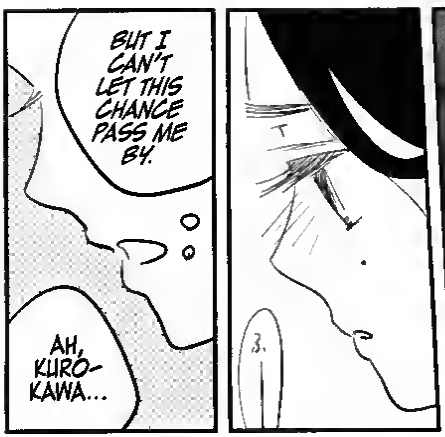

WHAT IS THIS SONG?
I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE.
I CAN'T REMEMBER FROM WHERE.
YOU SHOULD STOP CRYING NOW.

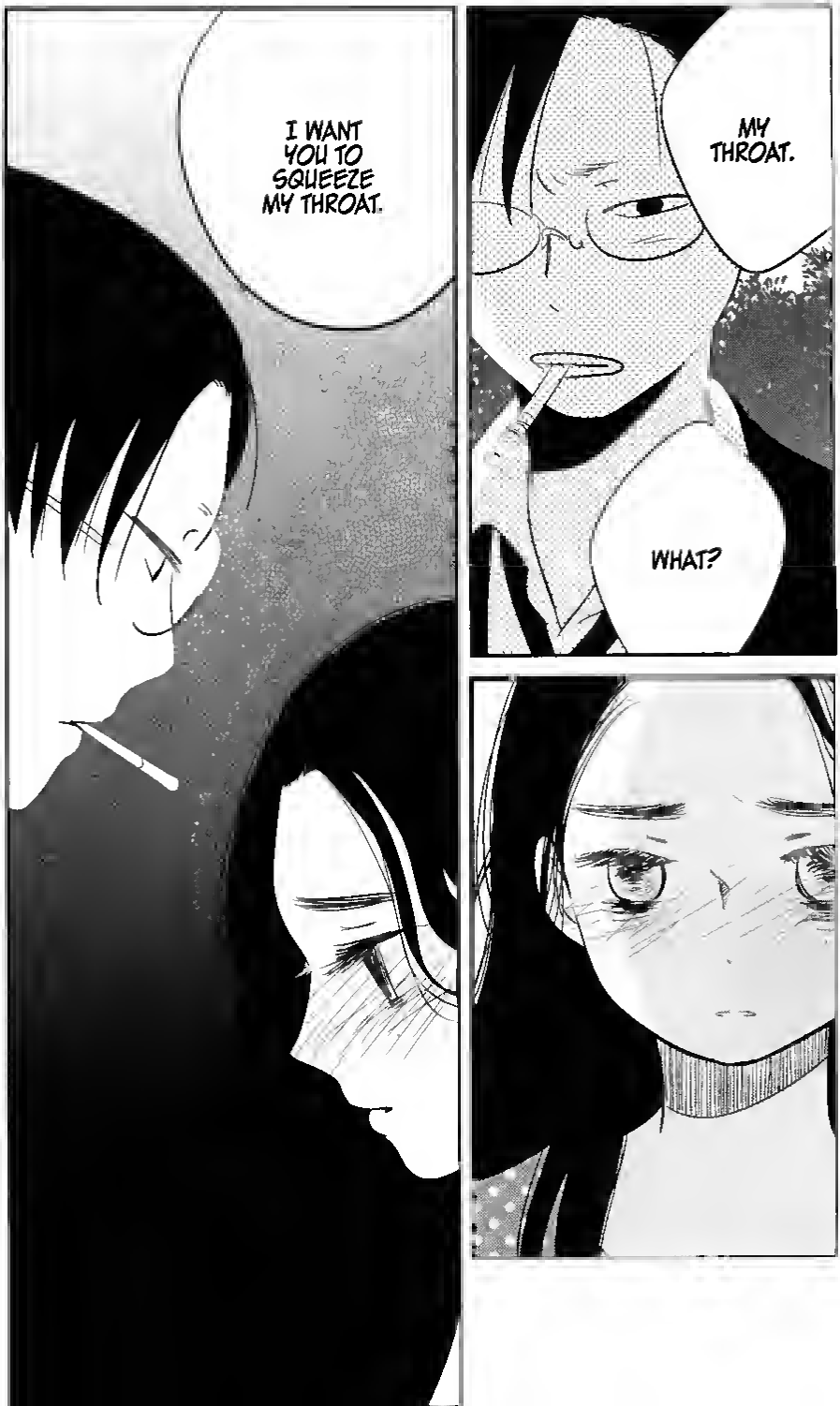

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I AM NO LONGER DRUNK.
I DIDN'T EVEN CRY THAT MUCH.


BUT I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE PASS ME BY.
AH, KURO-KAWA...
3.

I LOST MY INHIBITIONS BECAUSE I WAS DRUNK.
MY HEART TOOK CONTROL.

DO YOU STILL LOVE HER?
WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT HER?
DO YOU STILL LOVE YOUR WIFE?
I KNEW YOU WOULD FIND OUT SOMEDAY.
WHAT?
AH.

I DON'T WANT TO DATE ANY ONE.
I DON'T THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT AT ALL.
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.
WELL, WORKING AND DATING AT THE SAME TIME WOULD BE PRETTY ANNOYING.
IF YOU ARE GOING TO CONTINUE THIS, YOU SHOULD GIVE IT UP NOW.
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME.
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT?
↑ Upside-down cigarette


I WANT YOU TO SQUEEZE MY THROAT.
MY THROAT.
WHAT?

USUALLY, PEOPLE SAY "PLEASE HOLD ME" IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.

YOU'RE CRAZY.
SQUEEZE MORE.
MORE.

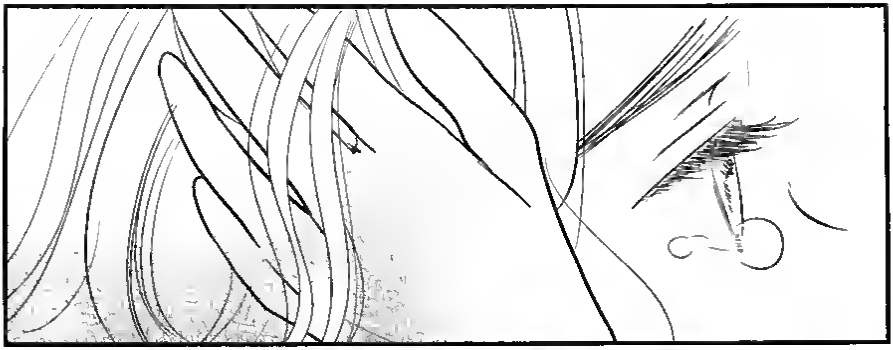
UGH
ACK
KURO-
KAWA...

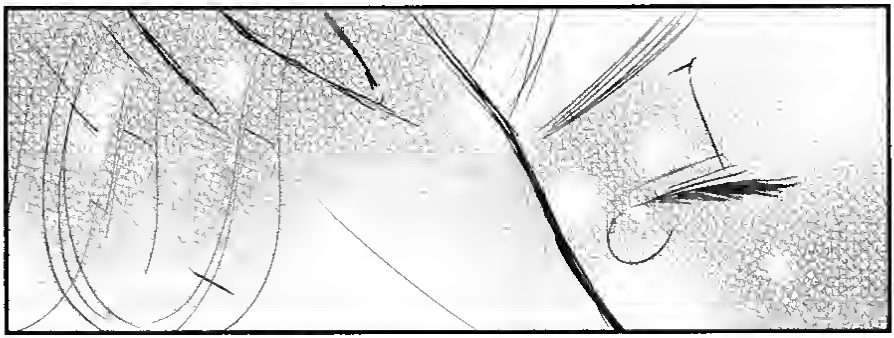
I love you.

THIS CAN'T END WELL...
MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO IS CRAZY?

story. 6

HIS HAND WAS NO LONGER CHOKING ME.
HE WAS STROKING MY HAIR KINDLY.





MY THROAT CHOKED UP MORE THAN WHEN HE WAS SQUEEZING ME.

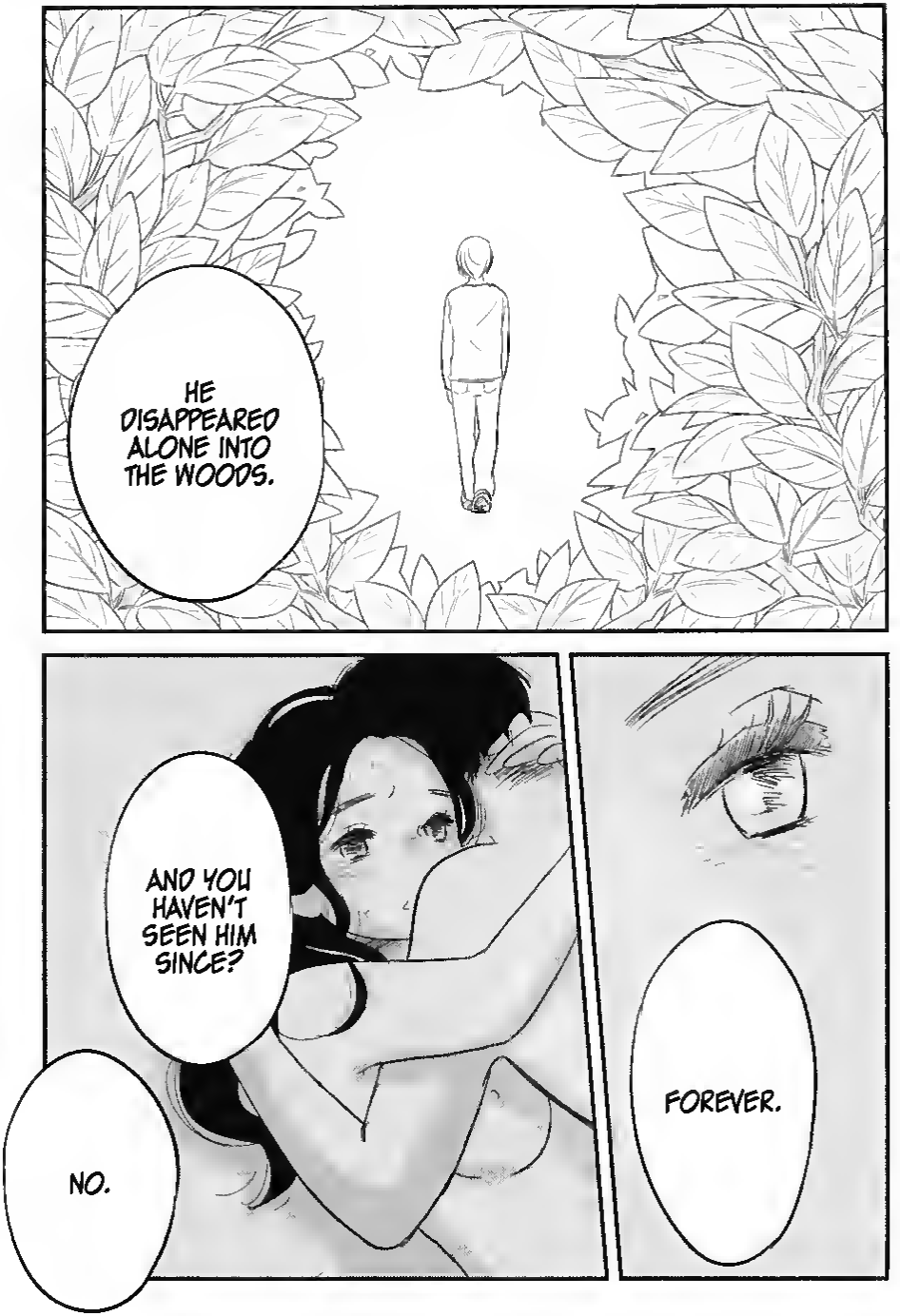
I WAS IN IMENSE PAIN.

I HAD A BROTHER WHO WAS TEN YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
YES,
HE'S NO LONGER WITH US.
"HAD"?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
IS HE DEAD?
ONE DAY,
HE JUST DISAPPEARED.

IT WAS AFTER I TURNED SIX. THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER.
I WENT WITH MY BROTHER TO THE FOREST NEARBY.
IT WASN'T REALLY A FOREST, IT WAS MORE OF A BIG PARK.
WE CALLED IT "THE FOREST".

MY BROTHER SUDDENLY GOT UP AND STARTED WORKING TOWARD THE FOREST.
WE WERE PLAYING IN THE SAND PIT LIKE WE ALWAYS DID.
I ASKED HIM WHERE HE WAS GOING.
HE JUST LOOKED BACK AT ME AND SMILED.


HE DISAPPEARED ALONE INTO THE WOODS.
AND YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE?
NO.
FOREVER.

NOBODY HAS EVER SEEN HIM AGAIN.

I'M ASHAMED.
WHY AM I TELLING HIM THIS?
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD TELL ANYBODY ABOUT MY BROTHER.
WHAT AM I SAYING?
AH.
MY BODY AND MY BRAIN ARE NOT CONNECTED RIGHT NOW.
AH.
KEEP TALKING.
WE ARE BECOMING ONE...

I FEEL ASHAMED BUT THIS FEEL SO GOOD.
KURO-KAWA...
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME.

BROTHER!
BROTHER!
OUCH!

IT HURTS.
YOU... KNOW... EVERYDAY...
YOU DIDN'T DO IT PROPERLY... NOW... IT IS...
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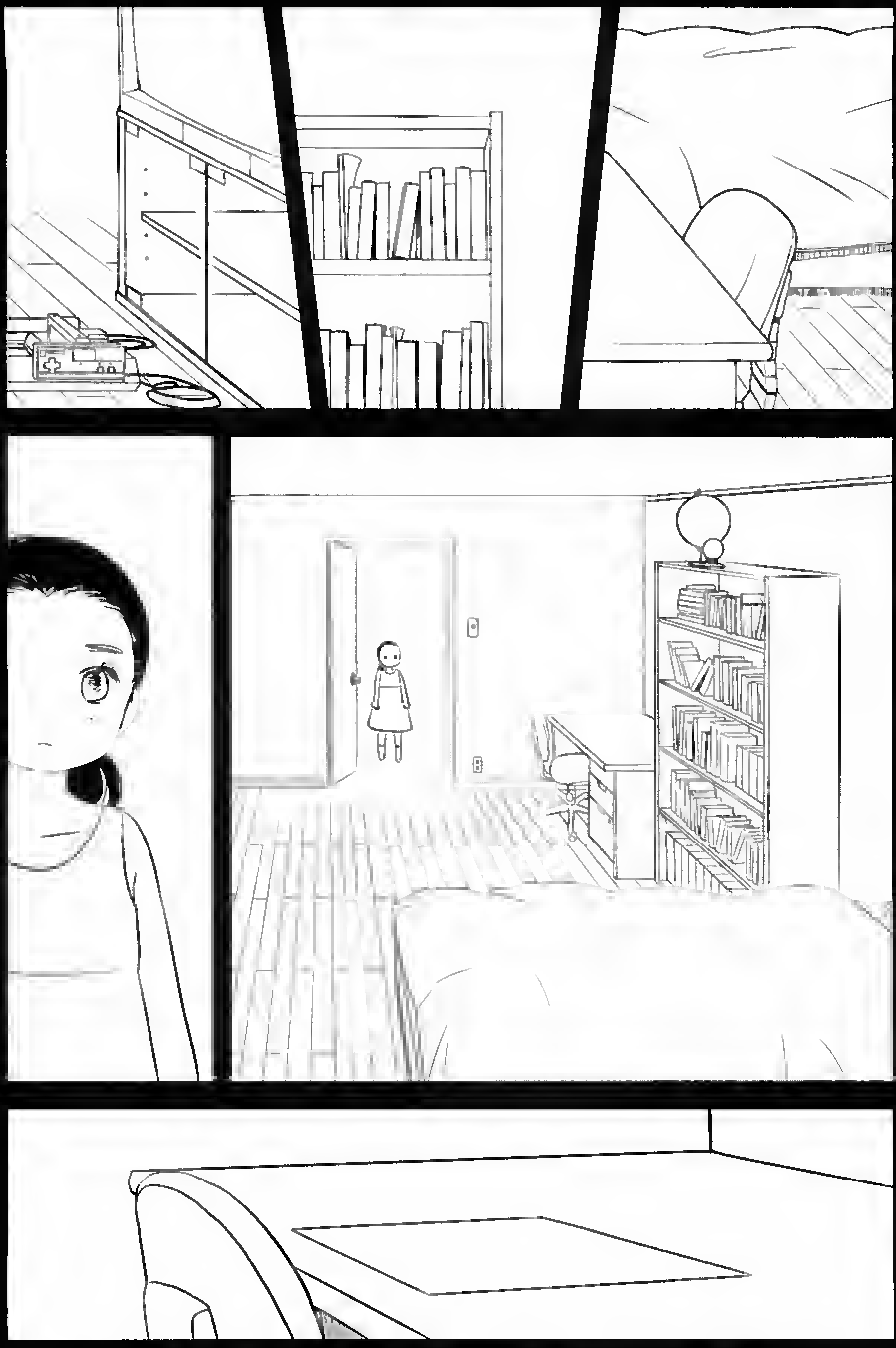
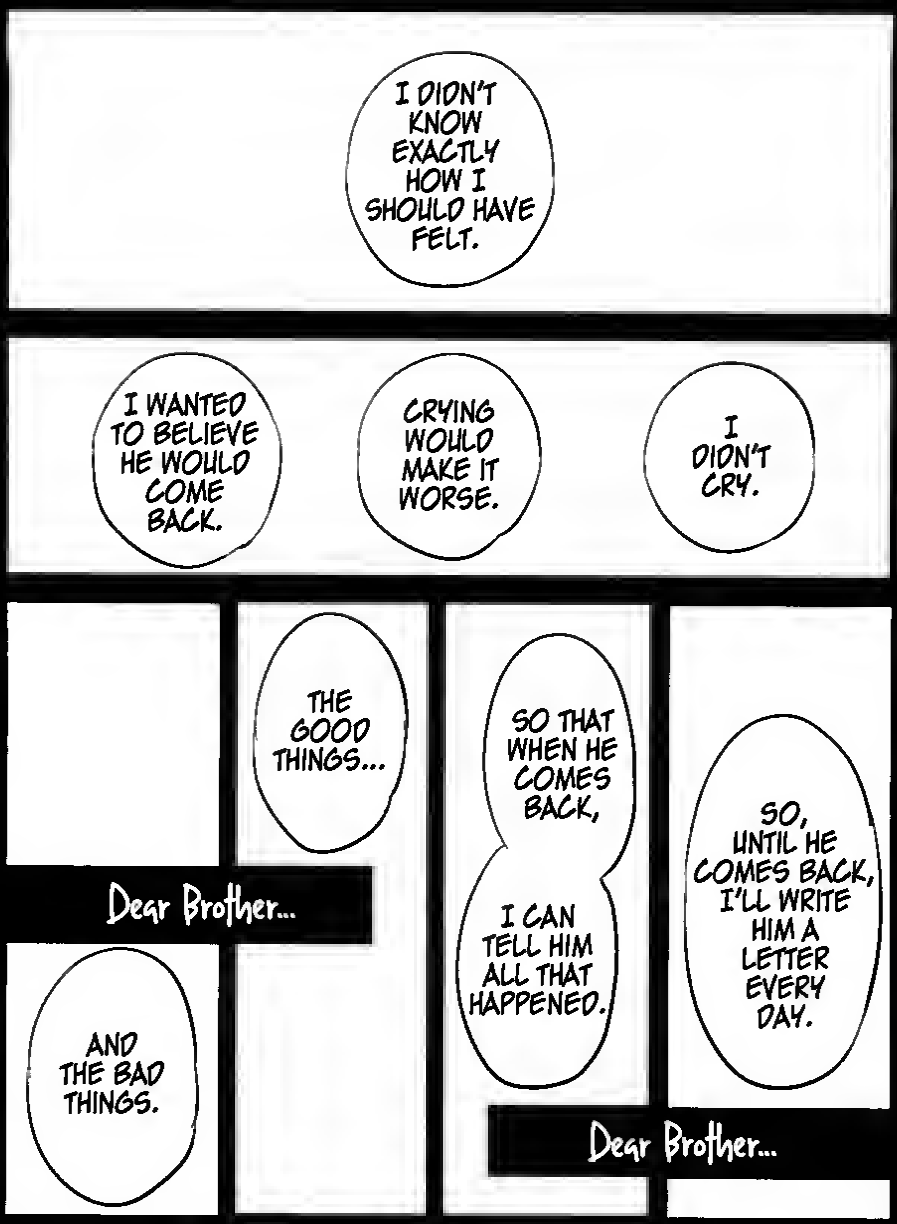


BROTHER...
What do you think about your mother?
A small.
WHEN I SAW THAT MEMO AT THAT TIME...
IT WAS AT THAT TIME THAT I REALIZED THAT MY BROTHER NEVER WANTED TO COME BACK.


I DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW I SHOULD HAVE FELT.
I WANTED TO BELIEVE HE WOULD COME BACK.
CRYING WOULD MAKE IT WORSE.
I DIDN'T CRY.
THE GOOD THINGS...
Dear Brother...
AND THE BAD THINGS.
SO THAT WHEN HE COMES BACK,
I CAN TELL HIM ALL THAT HAPPENED.
SO, UNTIL HE COMES BACK, I'LL WRITE HIM A LETTER EVERY DAY.
Dear Brother...

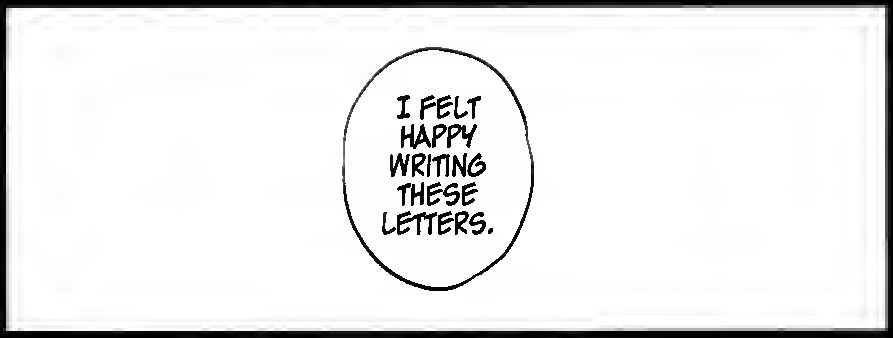
Today I saw a morning glory. We had a picnic, I played with mom and dad. We ate sweet potatoes. Later, it snowed.

I was happy.

I enjoyed myself.

It was beautiful.

I had fun.



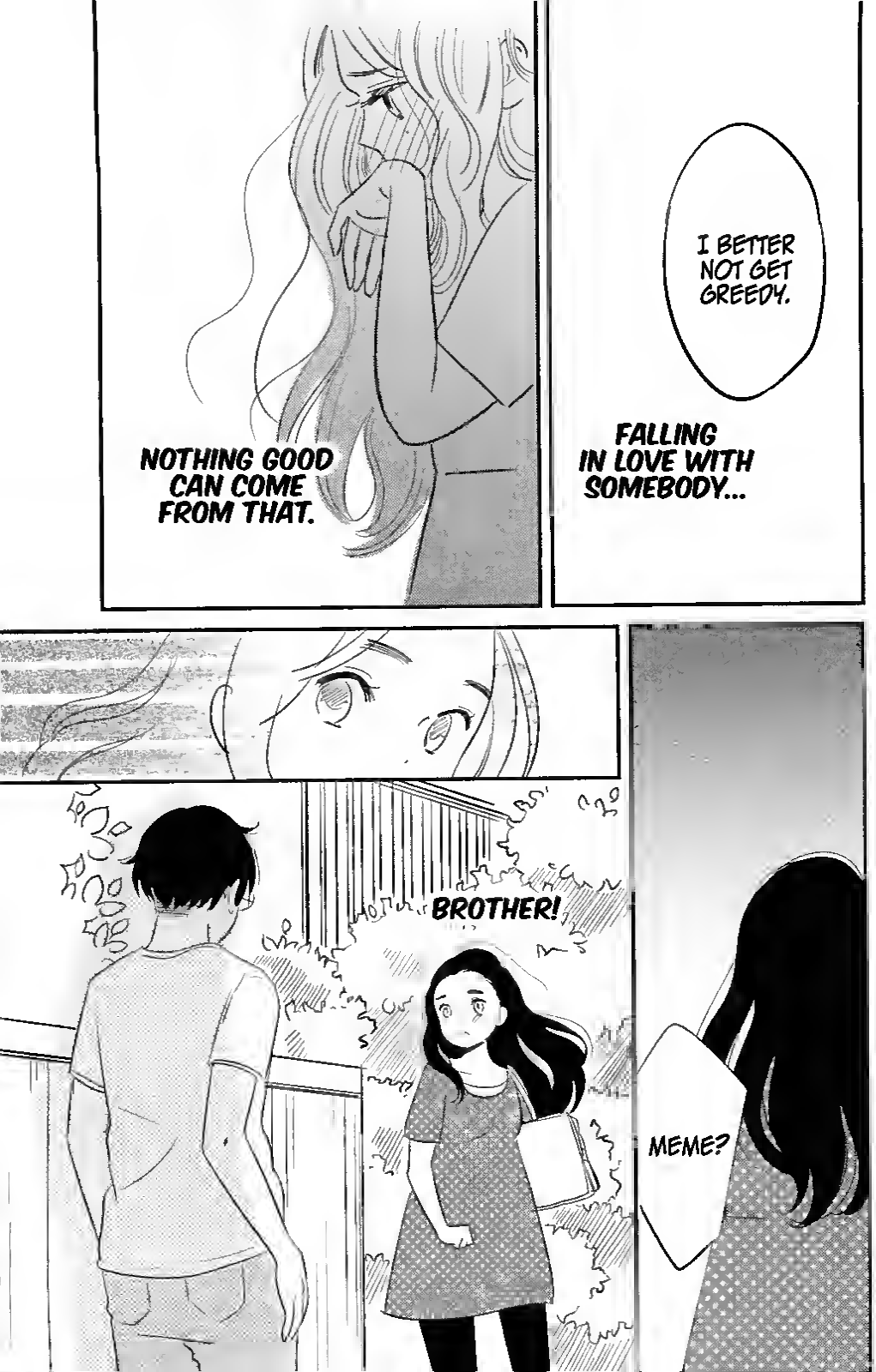
It was very beautiful.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS...
WITHOUT HIS GLASSES.

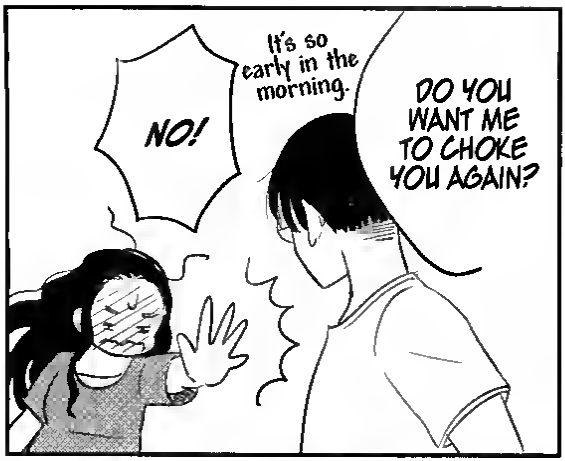
HE IS SO CUTE.
ふふ
WOW.
HE DOESN'T LOOK AS SCARY WHEN HE'S ASLEEP.
すう
HIS HAIR IS A MESS.
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
ゴロリ
ん

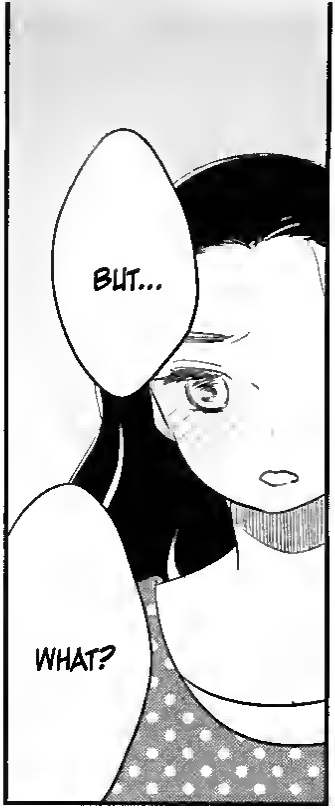
"DATING". I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT DATING HIM.
BUT, I LIKE THIS VERY MUCH.

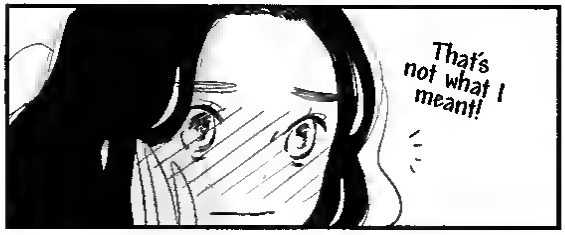
I THINK HE FEELS THE SAME WAY.
I ASKED HIM TO CHOKE ME AND HE DID.
LUCKILY, WE HAD SEX, TOO.
THERE IS A TRAIN STATION NEARBY.
A PHONE IS SO CONVENIENT.
EVEN WHEN I'M ALL ALONE...
THIS IS NICE.
I CAN STILL FIND A WAY HOME.


NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM THAT.
I BETTER NOT GET GREEDY.
FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY...
BROTHER!
MEME?

AH!
I CALLED HIM "BROTHER"!
WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU CAN GO HOME?
OKAY, LET'S GO SOMEWHERE TO EAT.
HUH?
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
Conditioned reflex
BUT, WHAT ABOUT WORK?
WE'RE TAKING THE DAY OFF.
LET'S GO OUT DRINKING AGAIN.



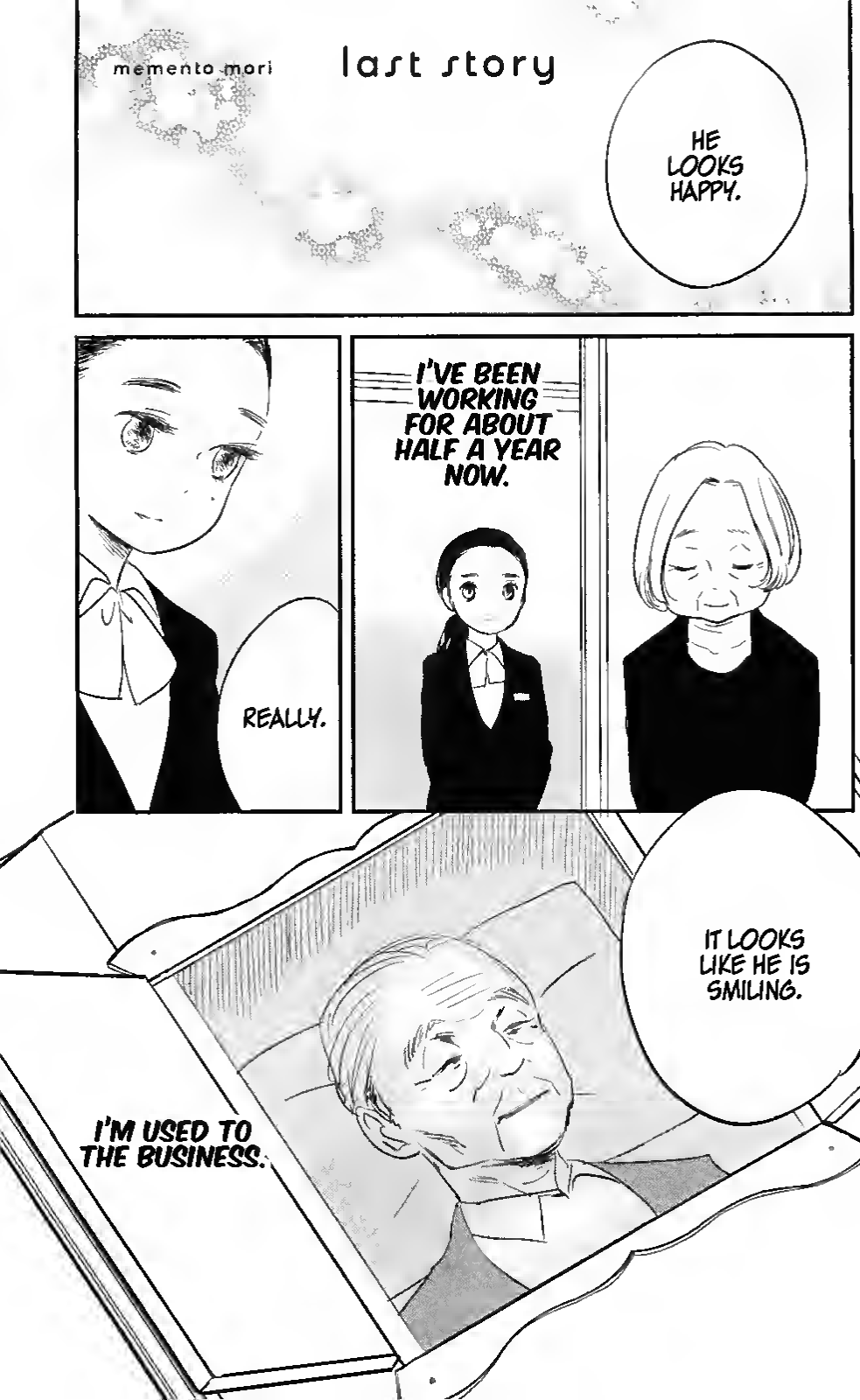




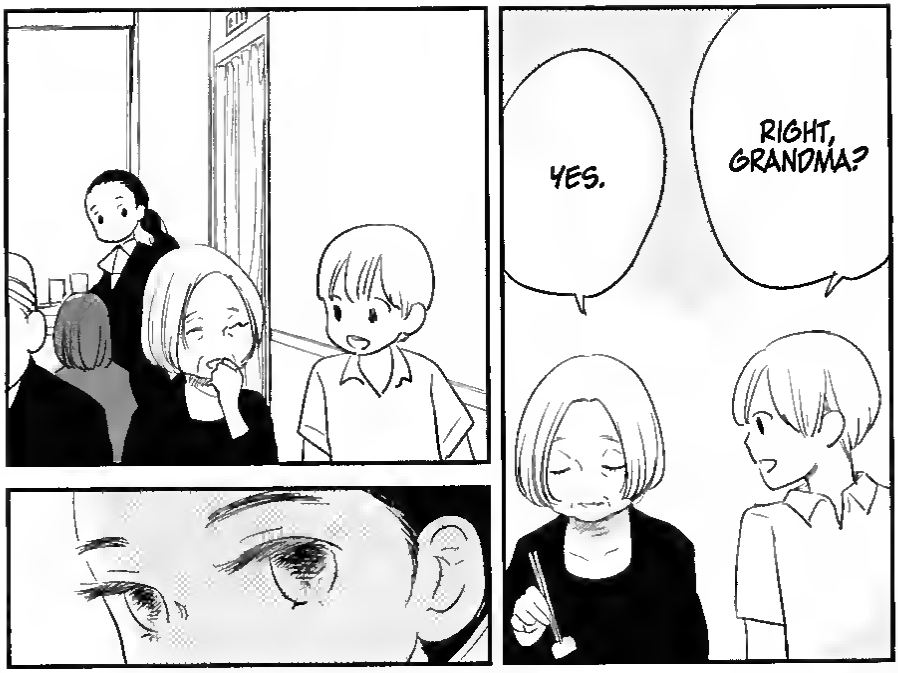
WHY CAN'T I STOP SMILING?

I'LL KILL YOU.

last story


HE LOOKS HAPPY.
I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR ABOUT HALF A YEAR NOW.
REALLY.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE IS SMILING.
I'M USED TO THE BUSINESS.

KOICHI HIT ME!
HE HAD A REALLY GOOD LIFE.
SHUT UP!
THIS IS REALLY A GOOD FUNERAL.
HEY, GIVE ME ONE MORE BEER!
HE LIVED PAST EIGHTY.
THAT FACE OF HIS WAS ALWAYS SMILING.
HE ALWAYS DID WHATEVER HE WANTED, SO HE MUST HAVE NO REGRETS.
HE WORKED MY MOM TOO HARD.
TOSHIHIKO FROWNED A LOT AND CRIED.
YES, HE DID.
AT THAT FESTIVAL, GRANDPA GOT ANGRY AND HIT HIS HEAD.
WHEN HE GOT DRUNK, WE COULDN'T TALK TO HIM AT ALL.


RIGHT, GRANDMA?
YES.

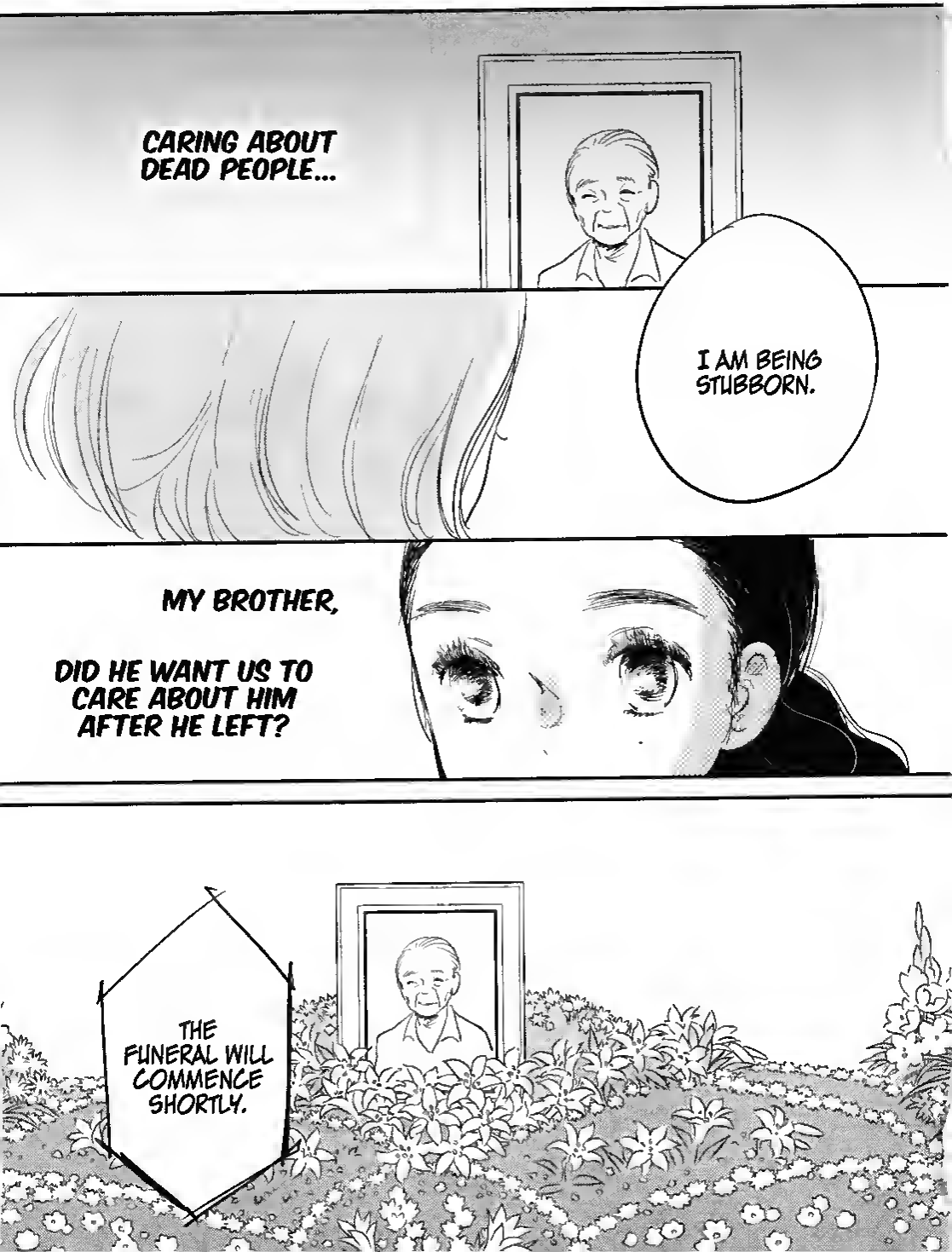
Reception
ON THE DAY BEFORE A FUNERAL, MY GRANDPA ENDED UP SO DRUNK...

EXCUSE ME, WE NEED MORE SUSHI!
RIGHT AWAY!
AND GET US SOME DRINKS, TOO!

EVERYBODY IS LAUGHING AND HAPPY. IT SURPRISED ME.
THE KIDS HERE ARE SO RUDE.
I THINK IT'S REALLY NICE TO HAVE A FUNERAL LIKE THIS.
IT WAS A REALLY PROBLEM FOR US.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
ISN'T THE FUNERAL WHERE EVERYBODY IS SMILING NICE?
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS OLD AGE, SO IT FEELS DIFFERENT.
IT'S TRUE.

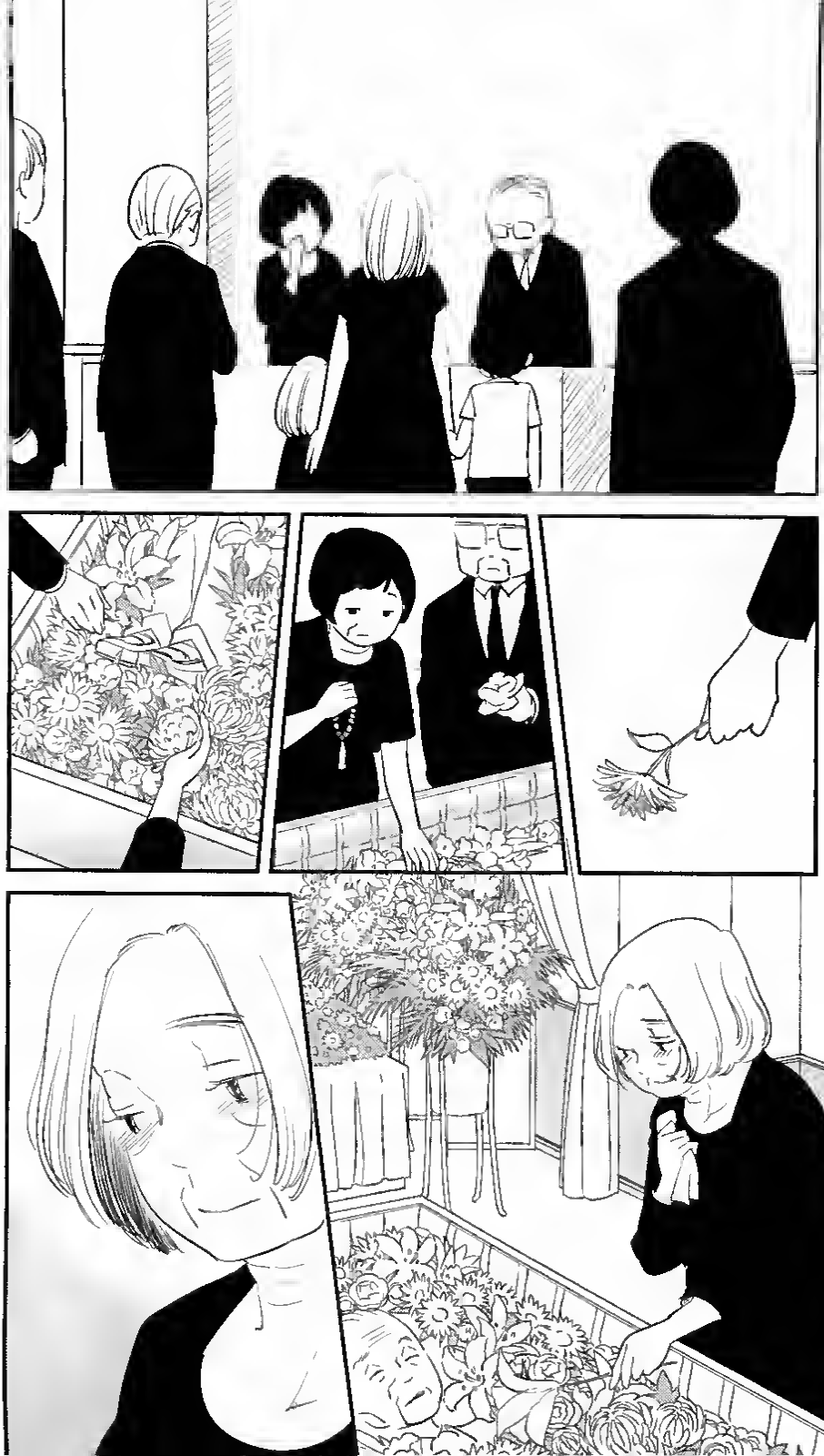
I'M SORRY.
THE WIFE WAS REALLY ON TOP OF THINGS.
YES, SHE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
LOOK...
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN TOUCH HIM LIKE THIS.
I COULD HAVE DONE IT MYSELF,
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.
HE COULD NEVER SLEEP PROPERY WITHOUT HIS SPECIAL PILLOW.

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK US FOR HELP.
THANK YOU.
HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING IF I WASNT WITH HIM.
I'M SORRY IF I ENDED UP INTERFERING IN YOUR WORK.
EVEN AFTER DEATH, IS IT STRANGE TO WORRY ABOUT HOW COMFORT-ABLE HE IS?


CARING ABOUT DEAD PEOPLE...
I AM BEING STUBBORN.
MY BROTHER,
DID HE WANT US TO CARE ABOUT HIM AFTER HE LEFT?
THE FUNERAL WILL COMMENCE SHORTLY.

PLEASE ENTER THE CEREMONY AREA.
LET'S CONTINUE TALKING ABOUT THIS LATER.
WE DID ALL THE WORK TO LOOK AFTER MY FATHER...
PLEASE ENTER THE CEREMONY AREA.
YOU CAN EAT AFTER, JUST WAIT A LITTLE.
I WANT TO EAT MORE!
LET'S GO.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOLD MY HAND?
GRAND-MOTHER.

KEN...
LET'S GO.
WE ARE GOING TO OFFER FLOWERS TO THE DECEASED, AT THIS TIME.
RIGHT THIS WAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

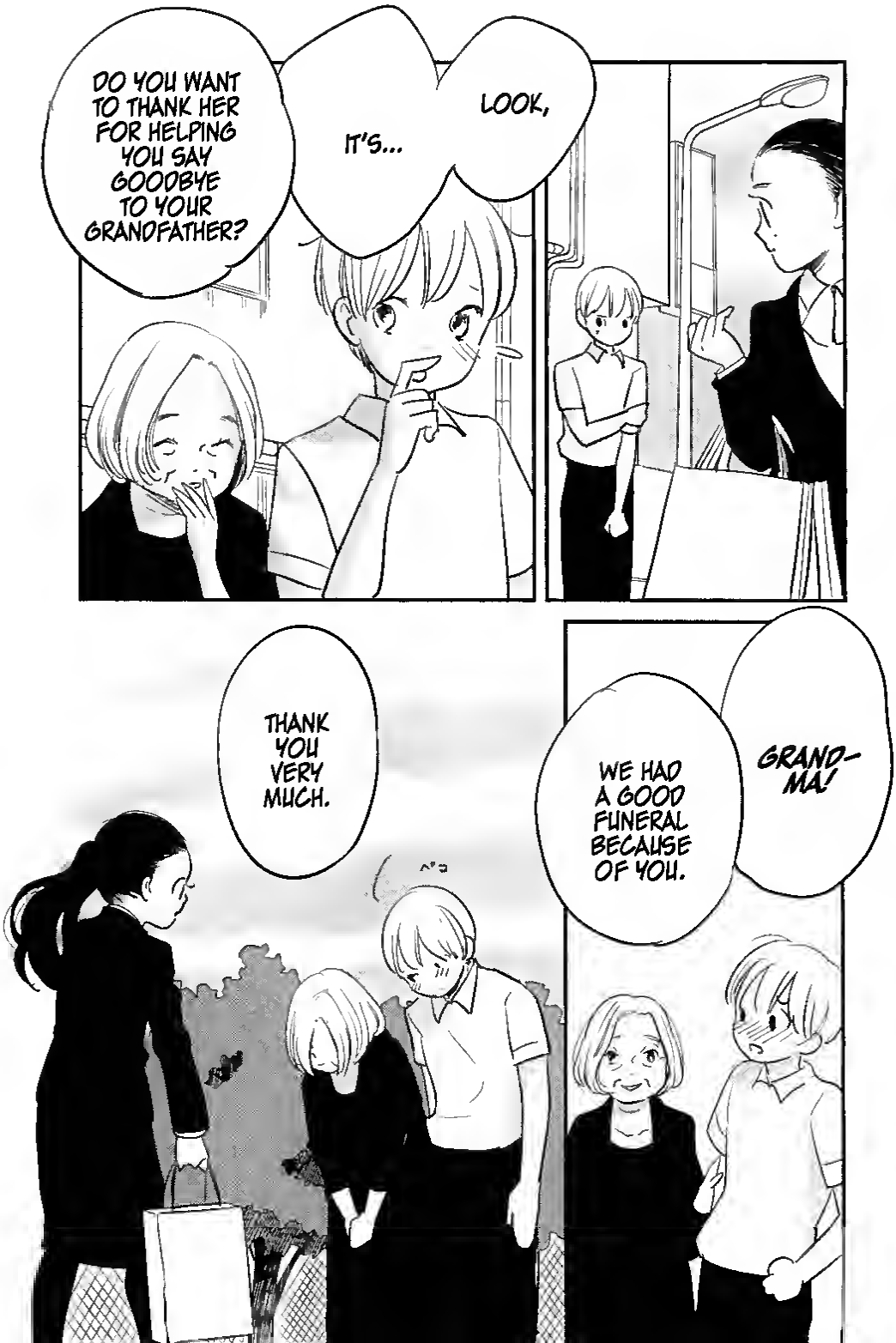


I MARRIED YOU.
AND I HAD MY CHILDREN AND MY GRANDCHILDREN AND MY GREATGRAND-CHILDREN, I...
I HAD A VERY HAPPY LIFE.
I'M GLAD THAT I WAS WITH YOU UNTIL THE VERY END.

THANK YOU FOR UP UNTIL NOW.
FATHER...
GRAND-FATHER...
DAD ...
FATHER ...

HERE.

THANK YOU, KEN.
THANK YOU FOR BEFORE.


DO YOU WANT TO THANK HER FOR HELPING YOU SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR GRANDFATHER?
IT'S...
LOOK,
GRAND-MA!
WE HAD A GOOD FUNERAL BECAUSE OF YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NO, NO!
PLEASE DON'T BOW TO ME!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!
GRANDMA! KEN! LET'S GO!
WE'RE COMING!
EXCUSE US.
I DIDN'T DESERVE TO BE THANKED, BECAUSE...

I DID THIS ALL FOR MYSELF.
EVERY TIME I HOST A FUNERAL, IT'S LIKE...
I AM SAYING GOODBYE TO MY BROTHER ONCE AGAIN.

I KNOW...
What do you think of your mother?
A) Small.
HE'S NOT COMING BACK ANYMORE.
BUT MY BROTHER DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
HE COULD HAVE TOLD US WHERE HE IS GOING.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DISAPPEAR...
JUST LET ME KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
I LOVE YOU.
I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS TO ASK HIM.
I WOULD ASK HIM TO NOT LEAVE ME.

LOOKS LIKE I'M BACK WHERE I LOST YOU.
THIS PLACE IS QUITE SMALL.
DOES IT LOOK THE SAME AS BEFORE?

IT WAS HUGE.
IT FELT LIKE A BIG FOREST TO US.
ONE WHERE YOU COULD EASILY GET LOST IN.
IT'S NOT THAT BIG.
YOU TOLD ME IT WAS A FOREST AND I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING LIKE PRINCESS MONONOKE.
IT SEEMED BIGGER WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.
IS THAT SO?
IT ONLY FELT THAT WAY BECAUSE YOU WERE A CHILD.
Portable ashtray.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOUR FUNERAL IS GOING TO BE LIKE, KUROKAWA?
NOT REALLY.
IT'S JUST A FUNERAL.
SO YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF IT AT ALL?

I SEE A FUNERAL ALMOST EVERYDAY, SO I'M NUMB TO IT.
FUNERALS OF PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
EVEN IF MY PARENTS DIED, AND YOU ASKED ME IF THAT MADE ME SAD, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD.
I DON'T HAVE A WIFE OR CHILDREN.
YOUR EX WIFE--
AH, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE GOT MARRIED AGAIN.

I GAVE UP...
NOBODY WILL HAVE TO CRY AT MY FUNERAL.
SOMETHING LIKE A NORMAL,
OR RATHER, SOMETHING LIKE A HAPPY FAMILY--
I WOULD CRY!
EVEN IF SEVERAL YEARS PASS BY...
AT YOUR FUNERAL...
EVEN IF WE LOSE TOUCH AND NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...

I WILL CRY A LOT.
TO NO LONGER BEING ABLE TO SEE SOMEBODY WHO YOU LOVE.
IT'S WOULD MAKE ME SAD AND I AM GOING TO MISS YOU.
WHY DO YOU ASSUME THAT I WOULD DIE BEFORE YOU?

I WILL CRY.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE. I'LL KILL YOU.

I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING.
AND I DON'T WANT ANYTHING.
I CAN DIE IF IT'S FROM YOUR HANDS.
I REALLY THINK I CAN.
THERE IS NOTHING.
NOTHING.
I THINK ABOUT IT A LOT.
THIS WORLD IS BLACK LIKE ASH.
WHETHER YOU'RE ALIVE OR DEAD, IT'S ALL THE SAME.
I LIKE HEARING YOU SAY THAT, KUROKAWA.

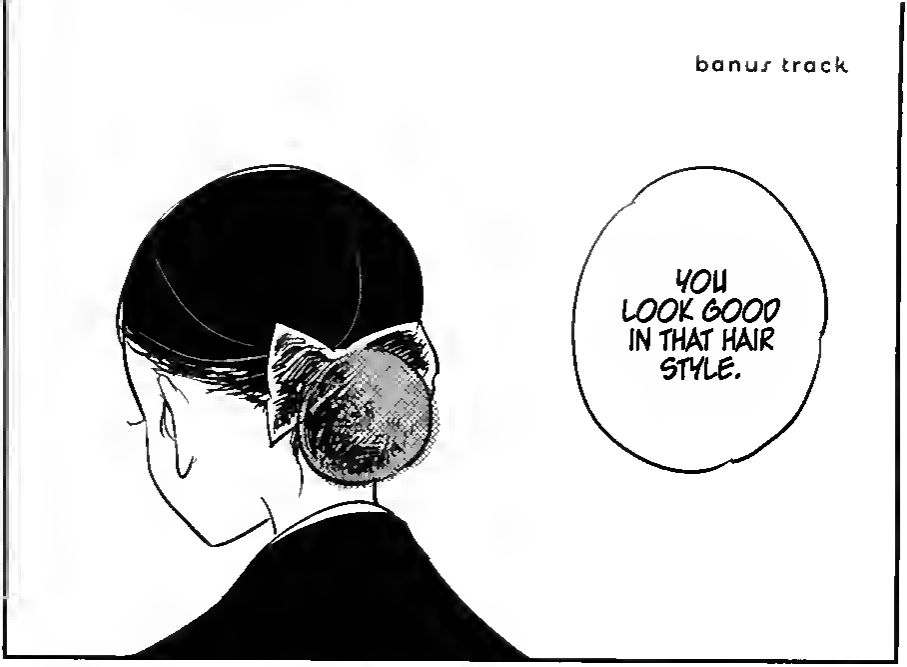
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
BUT FOR NOW...

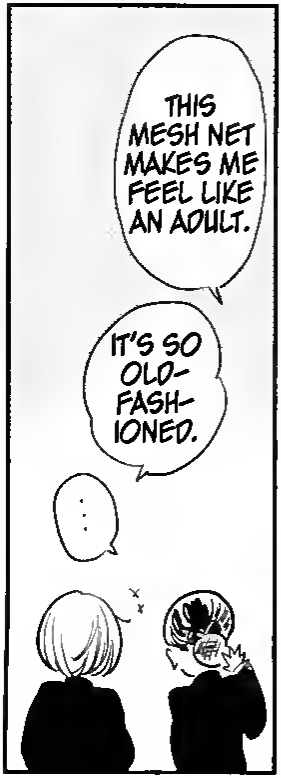
THE COLOR OF THE WORLD.
RIGHT IN THIS MOMENT.
I THINK I REALLY WANT THIS.

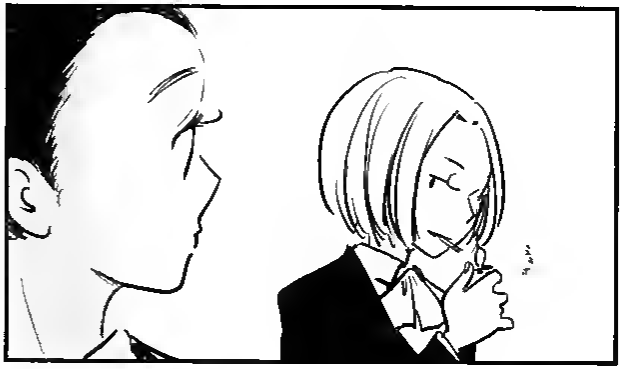
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!
WHAT?
YOU IDIOT.
HEY!
So she just wants me to say it?
YOU WON'T?!
I THOUGHT THAT WE WERE GOING OUT ALREADY.
But we did everything a couple would do, we went to each other's houses few times, nd had a few meals together. We weren't dating before?
WELL, THAT SEEMS FINE TO ME, I GUESS.
AFTER THAT, WE LEFT THE PARK.

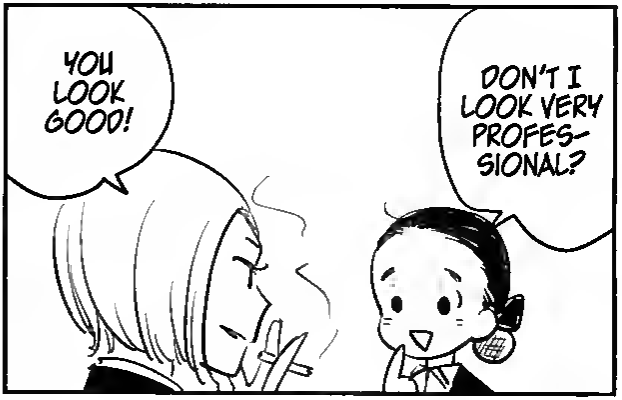
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DOING THAT RECENTLY.
IT'S HOT, SO OLD PEOPLE ARE WEAKER.
AH, I SEE.
EVERYBODY DIES.
THERE IS GOING TO BE TWO FUNERALS TOMORROW.

mement mori the end

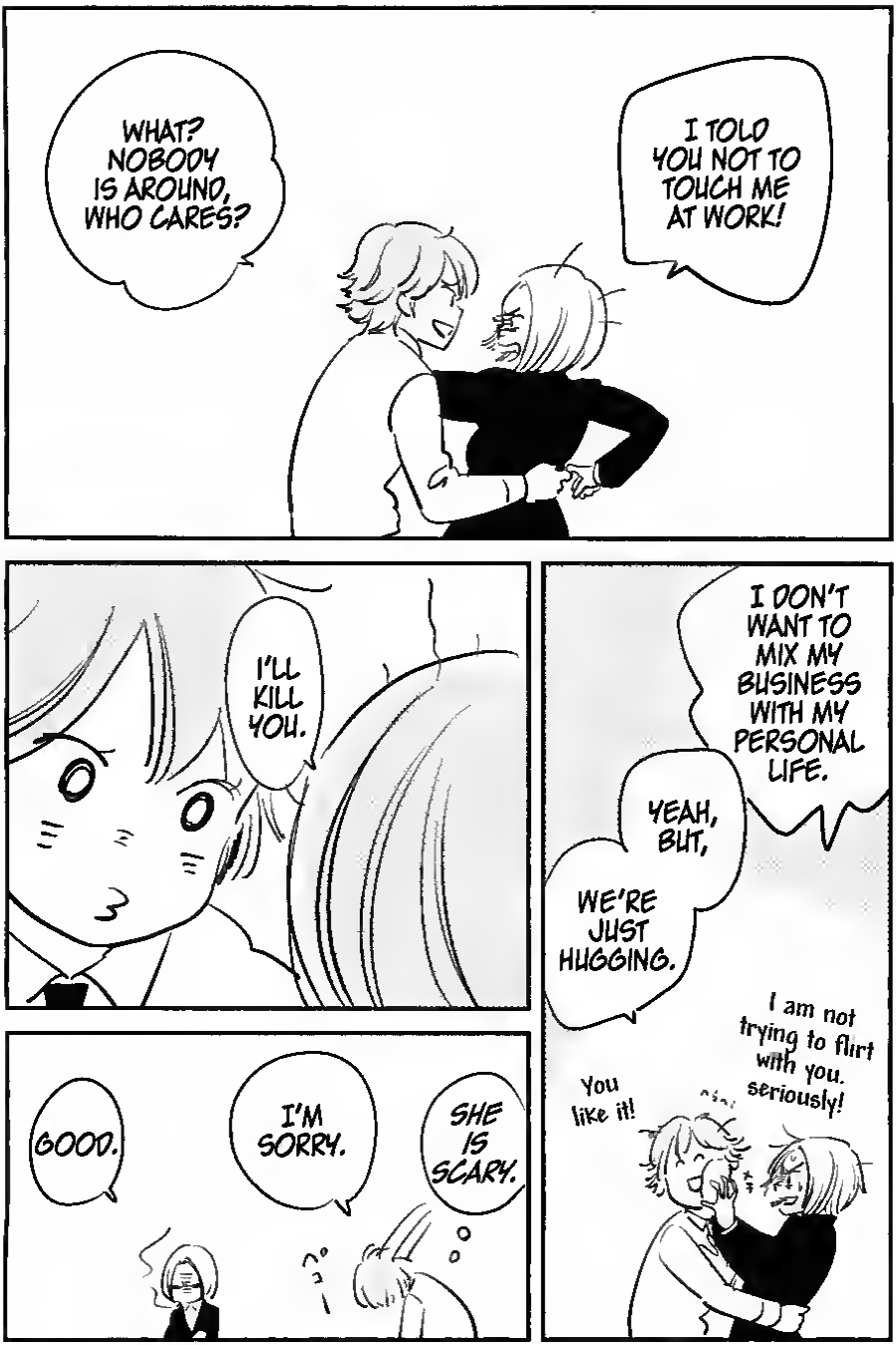

YOU LOOK GOOD IN THAT HAIR STYLE.

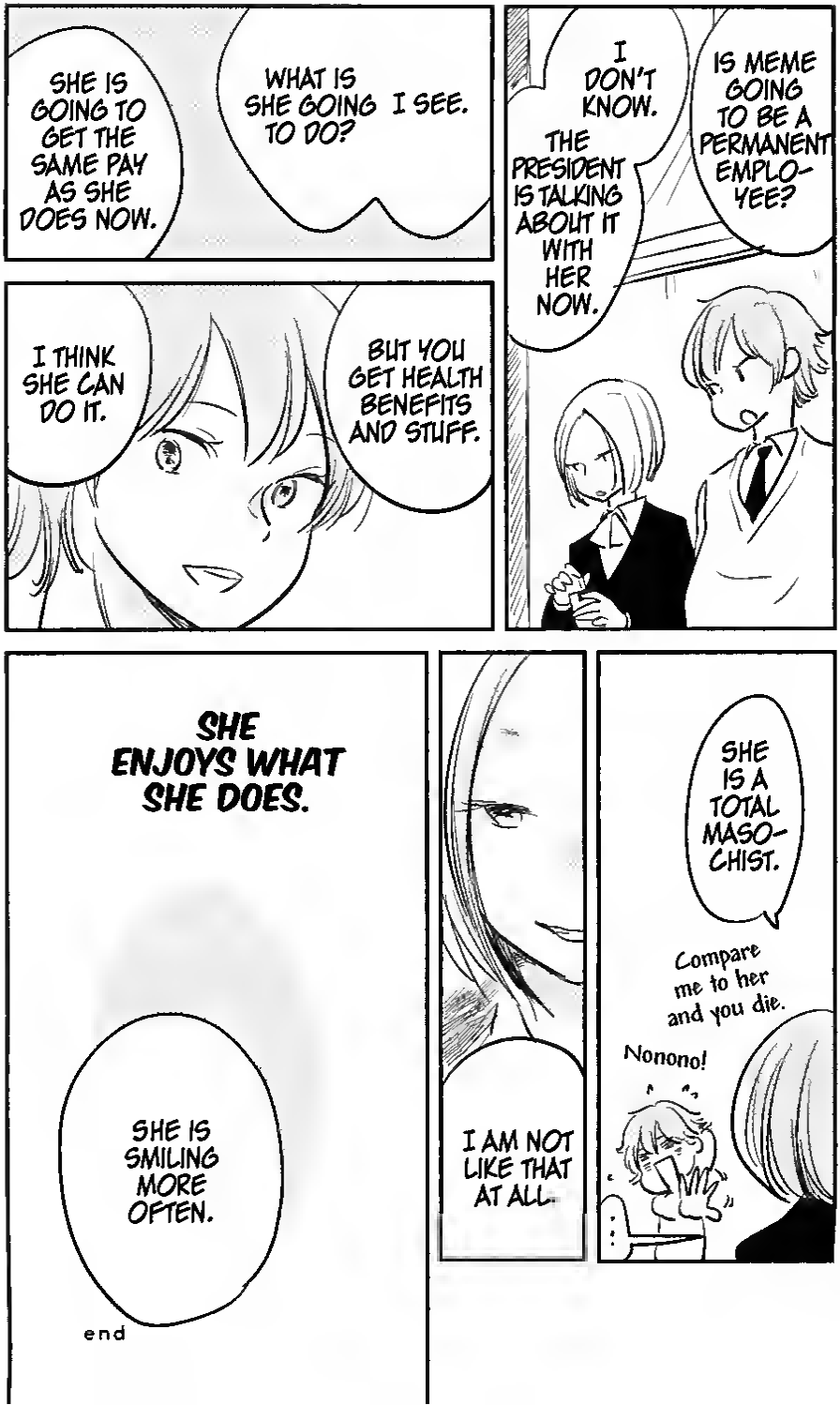

THIS MESH NET MAKES ME FEEL LIKE AN ADULT.
IT'S SO OLD-FASH-IONED.
...




YOU LOOK GOOD!
DON'T I LOOK VERY PROFES-SIONAL?

RIGHT AWAY.
PLEASE COME TO HIS OFFICE.
THE BOSS IS CALLING YOU.
MEME.
HEY!


WHAT? NOBODY IS AROUND, WHO CARES?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH ME AT WORK!
I'LL KILL YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO MIX MY BUSINESS WITH MY PERSONAL LIFE.
YEAH, BUT,
WE'RE JUST HUGGING.
I am not trying to flirt with you. seriously!
You like it!
GOOD.
I'M SORRY.
SHE IS SCARY.


SHE IS GOING TO GET THE SAME PAY AS SHE DOES NOW.
WHAT IS SHE GOING TO DO?
I SEE.
I THINK SHE CAN DO IT.
BUT YOU GET HEALTH BENEFITS AND STUFF.
I DON'T KNOW. THE PRESIDENT IS TALKING ABOUT IT WITH HER NOW.
IS MEME GOING TO BE A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE?
SHE ENJOYS WHAT SHE DOES.
SHE IS SMILING MORE OFTEN.
end
I AM NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
SHE IS A TOTAL MASOCHIST.
Compare me to her and you die.
Nonono!

Afterword

TEN YEARS AGO, I WORKED IN A FUNERAL HOME AS A HELPER LIKE MEME.
IT WAS ONLY FOR AN YEAR,
BUT I FELT MANY THINGS.
IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO EXPRESS MY EXPERIENCES IN A STORY LIKE THIS.

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME INTERVIEW YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE BUSY,
MR. OGATA AND MR. SAITO AT THE TOKYO FUNERAL HOME.

DESIGNER MR. KAWANA,
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME USE YOUR NAME.

MISS MAKOTO MENO,
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME.

MR WATANABE, MR YUSA, MR YAKAGI
MR HOSHIZUKIYO AND CHICHIN PUIPUI-CHAN,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THIS BOOK POSSIBLE.

AND THANK YOU TO THE READERS WHO ENJOYED THIS WORK.

FUMI FUMIKO